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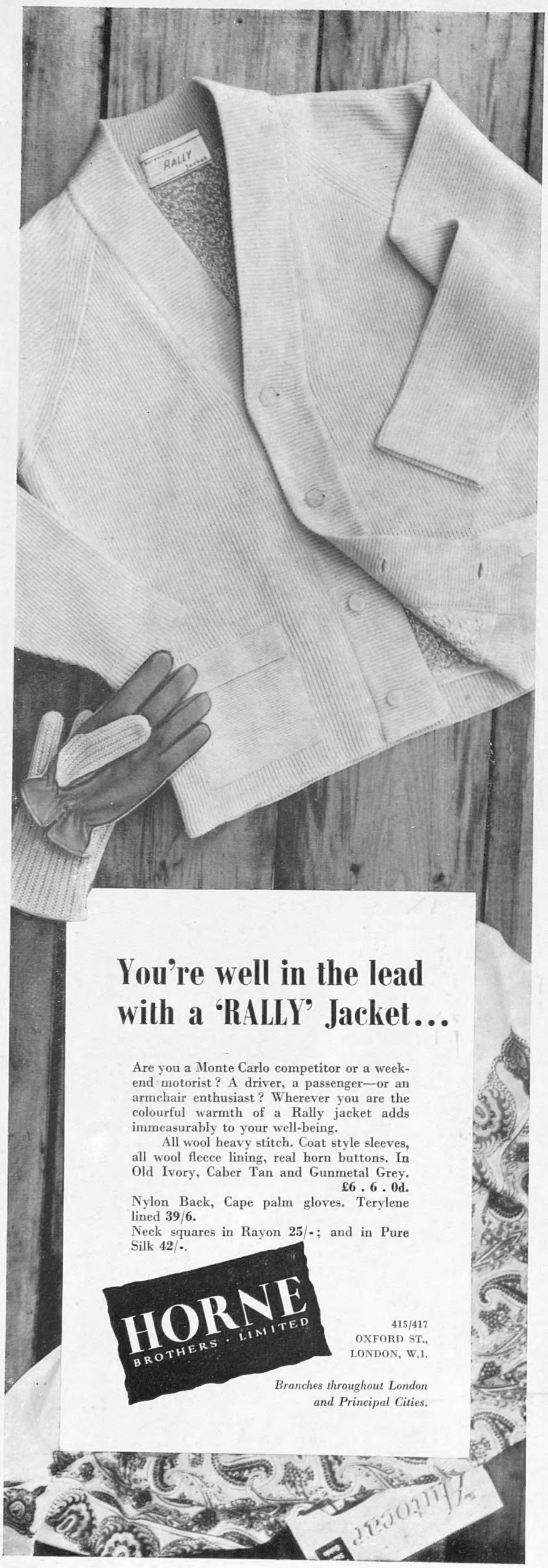

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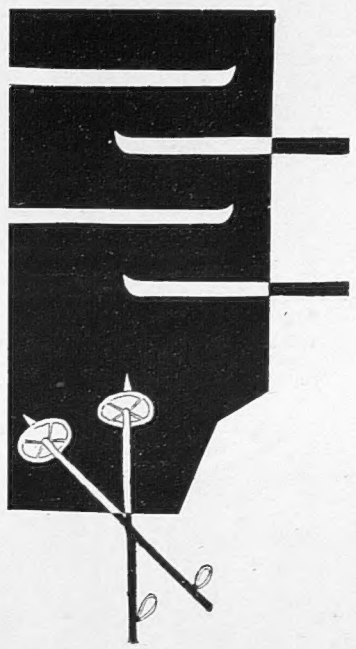

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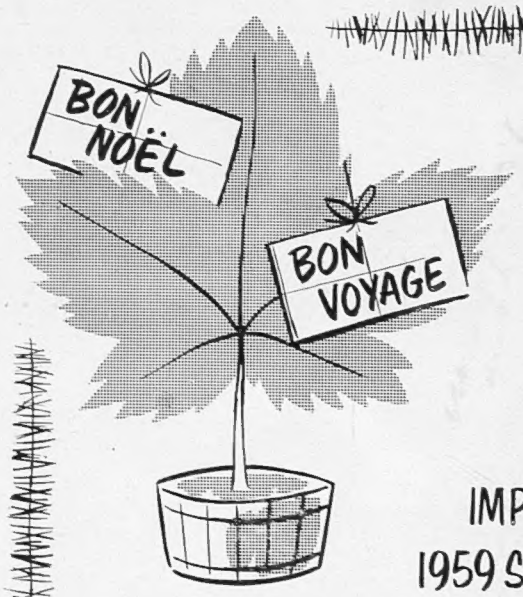

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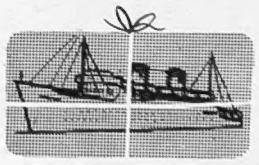

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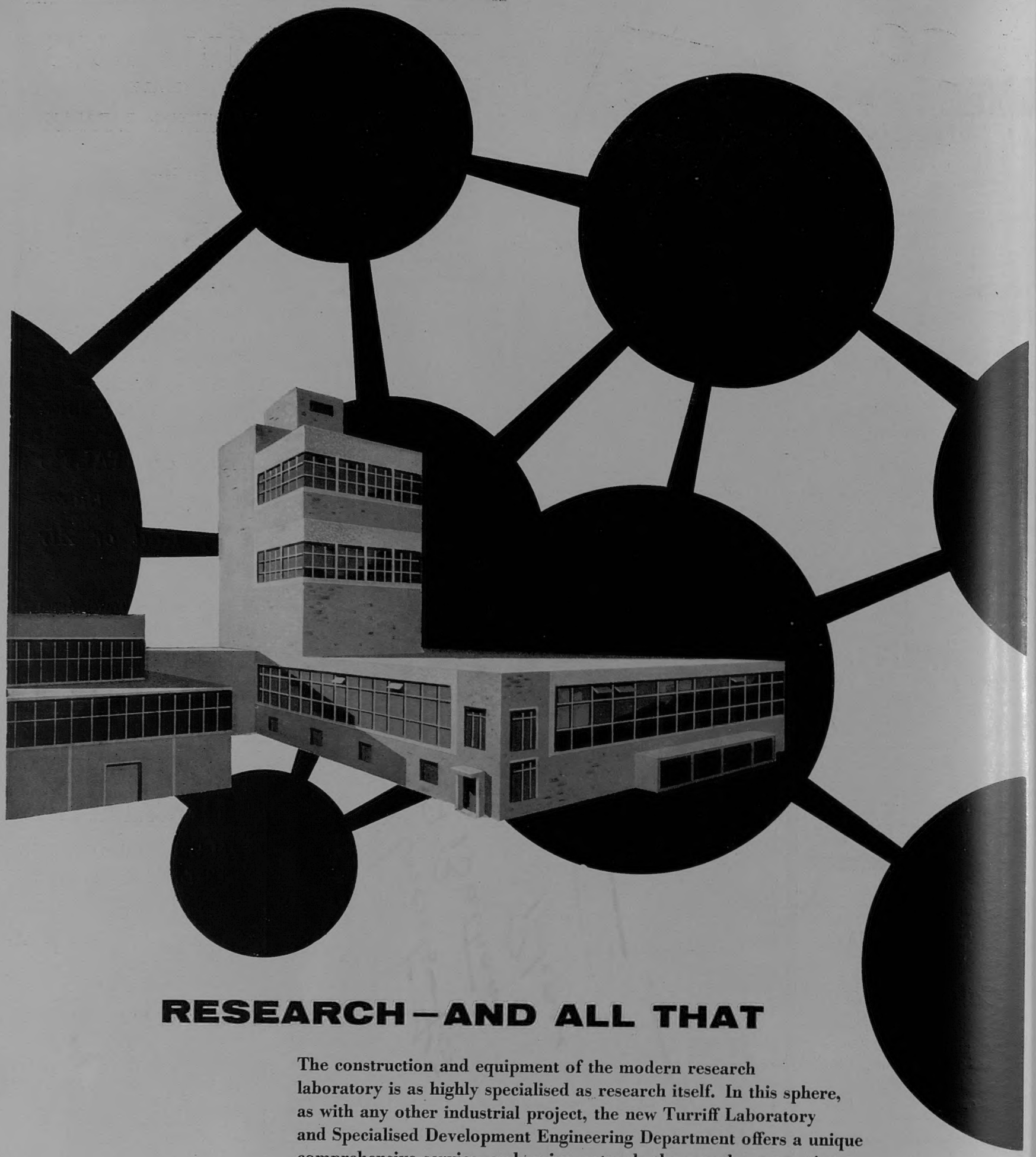

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Volume CCXXXV No. 3064

The SPHERE, London, December 20, 1958

The SPHERE

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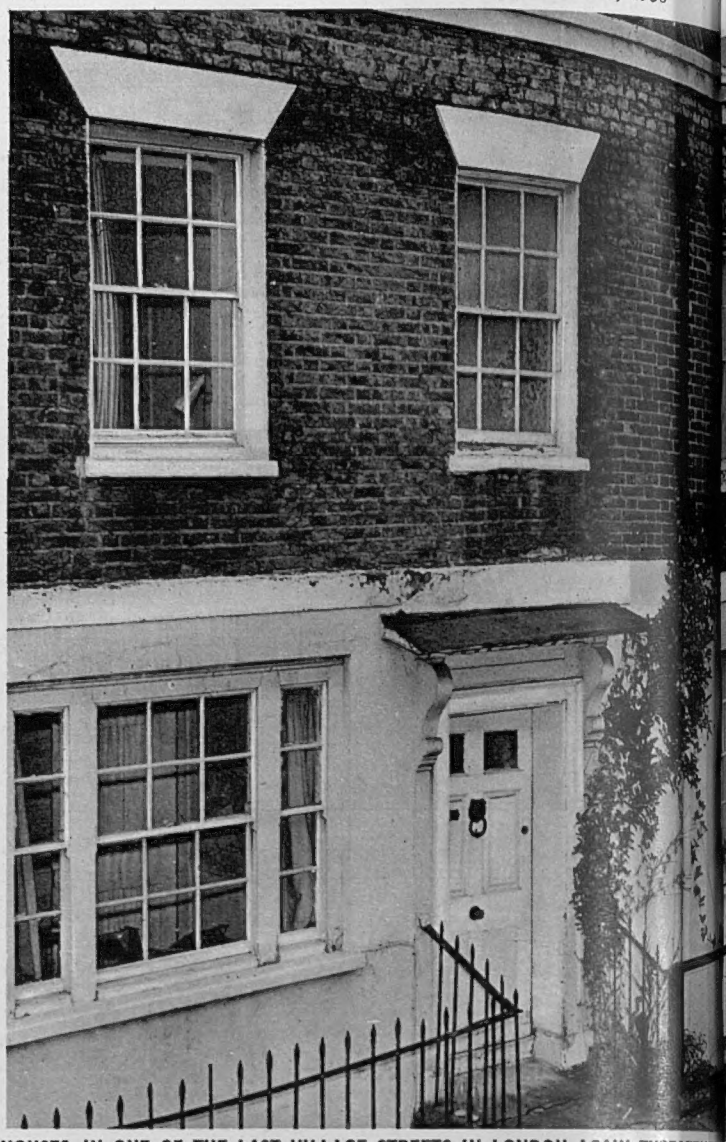
ROYAL LAUNCHING FOR A NEW ZEALAND FRIGATE—H.M.N.Z.S. "OTAGO" TAKES THE WATER AT SOUTHAMPTON AFTER THE NAMING CEREMONY BY PRINCESS MARGARET: The new anti-submarine frigate is one of two which are being built in the United Kingdom for the Royal New Zealand Navy. *Otago* was launched from the Woolston yard of John I. Thornycroft and Co. Ltd., and the ship was named as a bottle of New Zealand wine was released by Princess Margaret in the traditional manner.

H.M.N.Z.S. *Otago* is the first ship of a planned squadron for the Royal New Zealand Navy of Type 12 Whitby Class frigates. Her sister-ship, *Taranaki*, which is being built at Cowes by J. Samuel White and Co. Ltd., is expected to be launched next summer. Both ships are 360 ft. long, have a beam of 41 ft. and displace 2,600 tons. Their machinery is of an advanced design which develops 30,000 h.p. giving a maximum speed of about 30 knots. Armament on the two ships will include twin radar-directed 4·5-in. guns and twin 40-mm. Bofors; anti-submarine armament includes two three-barrelled mortars and twelve torpedo tubes. In both ships the special air-conditioning equipment is being installed by the Marine Division of Norris Warming Co. Ltd., and in place of hammocks every member of the ships' company will have a bunk. *Otago* is also the first ship in the history of British naval construction to have been built entirely for service in the Royal New Zealand Navy. Speaking at the launching ceremony at Southampton, New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. C. F. Skinner, said he hoped that Princess Margaret's future programme might one day allow her to visit New Zealand.

Postage—Inland, 4d.; Canada, 1½d.; Elsewhere Abroad, 4½d.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR TO DOWNING STREET: On the steps of the entrance leading to No. 10, Mr. Macmillan shakes hands with Sir Winston, smoking a cigar, after he and Lady Churchill had been the guests of the Prime Minister and Lady Dorothy Macmillan at luncheon.



HOUSES IN ONE OF THE LAST VILLAGE STREETS IN LONDON AGAIN THREATENED: eighteenth-century houses in Yeoman's Row, off the south side of Brompton neo-Georgian houses. An attempt to demolish them in 1938 resulted in

A London Newsletter

195-198, STRAND, W.C.2.

Christmas Comes.—Curiosity led me to turn back my files to read one or two of my "between wars" Christmas messages to readers of the "Newsletter." Perhaps it was to be expected that every one of them (and there have been thirty-one of them in all since 1926) should make reference to, or be based on, the Christmas ideals of peace and goodwill and on the promise of the ending of night and the coming of a radiant dawn. I was curious to find whether in the '20's and early '30's, I put more faith or punch into my hopes of that radiant dawn. And I found that I did so. In those distant days, we had certainly learned a good deal of the beastliness of which humanity is still capable. But those revelations were but a pale shadow of what we know to-day. Respect for the law was more widespread, regard for the pledged word and treaties of all kinds was not unusual, the revolt of youth was still a hesitant movement, nationalism was still expressed in hints and constitutional processes until the late '30's. Propaganda, as a disseminator of hate, was in its infancy and dictators did not hang on every bush. It was not really until Hitler rose to power that faith in the traditional promise of Christmas and that "dawn at last" was clearly shaken, and that the Christmas hopes I expressed began to read more like conventional and seasonable "copy" than integrity of personal faith. And it is on that foul iconoclast of all that Christmas stood for, that I largely charge the loss of faith. But the struggle must go on. "The King's Government must be maintained" and Clough's "Say not the struggle" must never be banned as a cliché. The world is in a mess, the nations are torn asunder, human reason is hamstrung by loss of respect for law and by abandonment of discipline, patience and restraint. But many people feel no cause to complain of the unfruitfulness of the last bitter forty years, and every one of us on his own little beach can see for himself that by "creek and inlet making, comes silent flooding in the main" of decency and hope and faith. There is still a great deal of good in humanity, and in parts it is better than it was. There are even signs that humanity is growing bored with trouble-makers and taking a more practical interest in eliminating some of them. A happy Christmas to all readers.

Mr. Cousins Missed the Bus.—In his rallying cry to his enormous T.G.W. Union to plump for the Socialists at the next General Election, Mr. Cousins missed his bus. He should have been much earlier in the queue. For the Tories have nailed down some of the jeremiads and dread warnings of their policy in the last six months, and have undoubtedly pulled us out of much of the red territory that was the *damnosa hereditas* of the last Socialist Government. At any rate, he should have timed his battle-cry before that astonishingly naïve TV advertisement of Labour's new "book of words," when six of their leading shadow players had the effrontery to treat the TV public as one and all "eleven-minus" in education and, without offering one realistic word on the financing of their new heaven, promised us all that and a new earth, too, for the casting of a vote and by the waving of a wand. Some of us, who tremble at the Government's optimistic actions designed to cope with rising unemployment, certainly thought Mr. Cousins went too far when he said that the Tories had done nothing about that problem and had done nothing to check the rise in living costs. At least they have slowed that rise down. But the shadow of a General Election is the signal for shadow play, and all 's fair in party warfare.

Recreation: Fighting.—"Monty" in retirement is proving an even more controversial figure and bonny fighter than Monty on the active list. Blenheim was fought two and a half centuries ago and Waterloo nearly one and a half. Both battles interest me profoundly, yet despite all that has been written about them, I could not write an intelligible account of the strategy of either. Those Dukes did not broadcast or write war memoirs, though Wellington used his pen all day long. Monty is deferring his retirement to rest and contemplation until he has insured that every schoolboy of our day can write a lucid military appreciation of El Alamein and the Normandy battles to the Rhine and beyond, and we may fairly judge that still, as of old, battles are his recreation. Fighting, and the limelight and all that limelight brings in its beams in this age of publicity. Repetition is the bones and beak of ramming facts into thick skulls. The art of advertisement rests on it, and since Monty has no intention of second thoughts or recantations, since "what I have said, I have said" is his slogan, we are in for a lot of repetition as he retells his battles and reinforces his decisions. Those who have read his Press-serialised passages, his book, his speeches to societies and institutes, and his broadcasts, will be thick-headed indeed if by 1959 they can make no better job of a military appreciation of his battles than can I of the great Dukes' battles.

The Bowlers' Game.—The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and if a full-house of spectators were content and interested to sit through the first Test Match at Brisbane in torrid heat, who am I, shivering thousands of miles away, to declare it wasn't cricket? But it certainly was a Test of Endurance. The truth, I suppose, is that the appeal of cricket has switched, and the skill of the bowlers nowadays supplies more interest to the *cognoscenti* than the productivity of the batsmen. Bred up to enjoy cricket when wickets were less doctored and seams had less significance, when Jessop crashed alternate deliveries to or over the ropes, and Ranji and

ENGAGEMENTS IN STAFFORDSHIRE FOR PRINCESS MARGARET: Committee during a visit to Rist's Wires and Cables Margaret, President of the University College of North

WITH DEMOLITION : The view shows the fronts of some of the nine early Road, which are scheduled to be pulled down to make way for a row of successful appeal by local residents, who are appealing for a second time.

A GRACIOUS INDIAN WELCOME FOR THE QUEEN MOTHER : Twenty-one-year-old Miss Sengubda clasps her hands as she gives a low bow to Her Majesty, who was attending a reception given by the Grocers' Company for the Dominions Fellowship Trust, at Grocers' Hall, in Princes Street, E.C.2.

Fry and Jackson glided, flicked, cut and drove with freedom, and the score mounted satisfactorily to 300 runs a day or more, I am perhaps unsuited to enjoy batsmen ever on the defensive, pegged down on the leg-side within a dense and close-set hedge. But the score-sheet of a day's play, read at a distance, is not exhilarating. It took stone-wall Bailey 7½ hours to compile 50 runs, but when usually fast-scoring batsmen are capable of scoring no more than 7 runs in 40 minutes and 15 in a full hour, one may wonder if the first fine rapture of Test cricket fans will last out the series. But I dare say it is only a matter of adjustment to new fashions, and the bowlers' game may still enthrall a wider circle of *cognoscenti* than when I was young and ignorant, and thought the drumfire of the bat and the roars and duckings of the crowd the music and poetry of cricket. Hirst, Haigh and Tom Richardson got far less publicity than their contemporary giants of the bat. The bowlers deserve their turn, and the first Test Match was very far from lacking excitement for those who enjoy the bowlers' game.

Her Royal Highness talks with women members of the Works Limited, at Newcastle-under-Lyme. In the evening Princess Staffordshire, was present at the Students' Ball at Keele Hall.

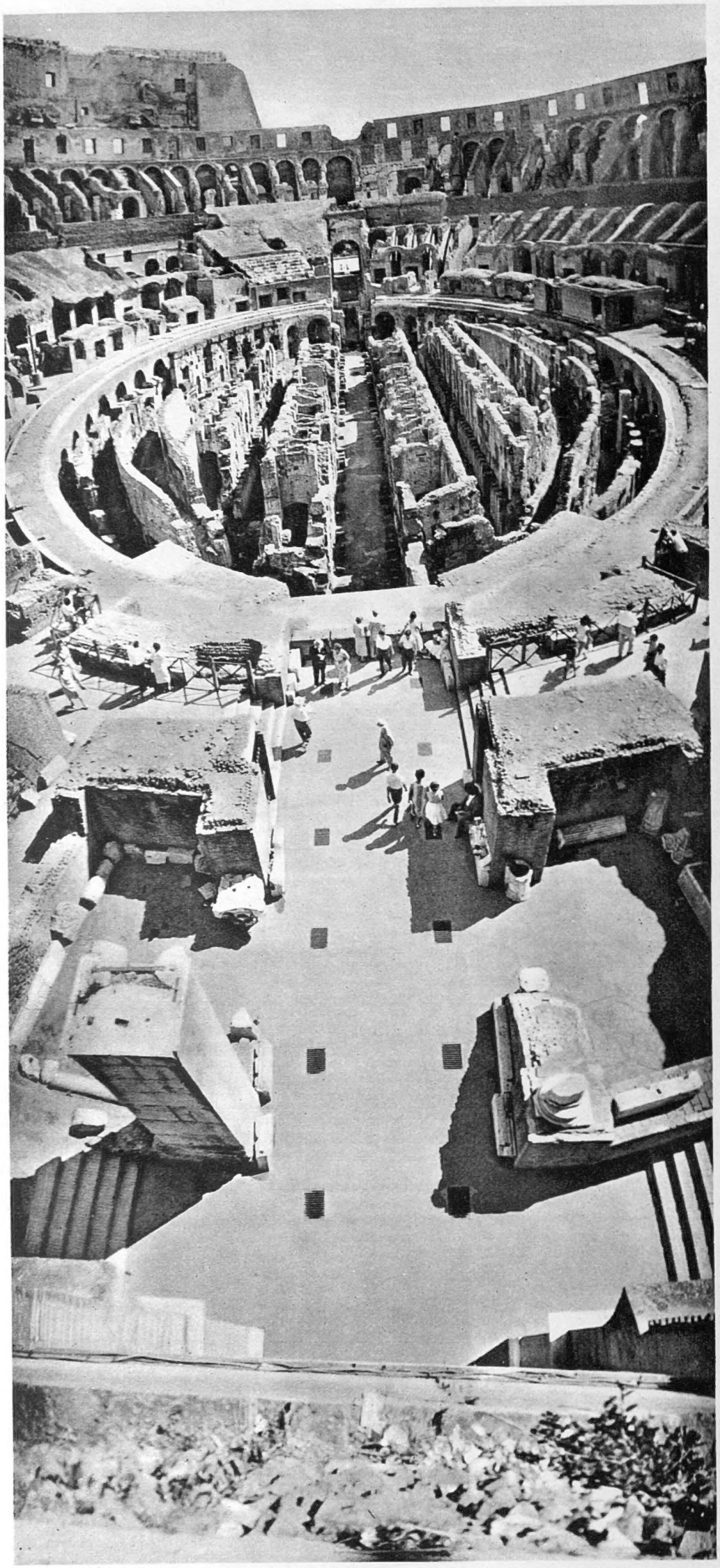
Ask us Three Questions.—I refuse to believe that I am in a tiny minority of cranks and die-hards when I sometimes voice my admittedly ignorant opinions on some burning questions of the day, and nothing would interest me more than to read the results of a widespread Gallup poll on two or three of them. The Gallupers might start with the following three—and the answers would be more valuable than answers on the current popularity of Tories and Socialists. (1) Do you think that efforts to reach the moon to-day are time and money thrown away and better employable on curing some of our earthly ills, such as fog, crime, starvation, and so on ? (2) Do you approve of the idea of a scheme gradually to hand our railway systems back to private ownership ? (3) Do you wish to resist the building in Britain of rocket bases and other preponderantly military atomic installations ? My " fan mail " is not very heavy, but what I receive assures me that on all these questions, I err (or show common sense) among quite a substantial ratio of the population. We may not represent the élite of intellectual Britain (as is claimed for the Wolfenden pro-homosexual-clause supporters), but our opinions would prove to be more than a whisper of a voice in the wilderness, and I think our answers would be a majority of " Yes," " yes," " yes."

A Quarter Million for Tuppence.—It is not, I think, jealousy that makes me dislike those gigantic pool prizes that up-end the lives of modest gamblers. I am too old to be otherwise than embarrassed by deciding how to dispose of an unexpected quarter million, and perhaps too mean to give it all away to charities, which is the obvious answer to doubts. I know some instances—one or two—of men whose contentment has been ruined by such " easy money," including the loss of friends and habits of temperance; and there is a strong argument for limiting prizes to, say, £10,000 maxima. There is, to my mind, a stronger case for so punishing this widespread form of gambling that it becomes less and less attractive, as it yields more and more to the Treasury. The average weekly contribution of money and time to haphazard chance may, on an average, be trifling, but both time and money could be better employed than on a distant prospect that very few ever reach; and it might be that if maximum prizes were divided by 10, the active and hopeful gamblers would be multiplied by 10.

" Festina Lente."—The " period of transition " which must elapse (and be long) before our famous new motorways are completed is unlikely to do much to cure traffic jams in holiday-times, and consequently to make long-distance travel much faster. The first days' rush to try out the Preston by-pass brought almost summer-holiday traffic on that speedway; with the result that traffic, which had speeded for eight happy miles, piled up in a serious queue where the new track gave way again to the " bad old ways." Stop and go, go and stop. We must expect that to continue, and must thank Heaven only for a few miles of unrestricted freedom to move. In microcosm I have seen the same inevitable results (with new dangers added) in the remarkable, and to my mind extravagant, straightening and widening of sections of our local and comparatively unimportant country roads. For example, the hill road up from Liss to the Portsmouth road invites the car-driver to speed for half a mile into a stretch of bottlenecks and twists which require the most careful negotiation, since buses and lorries, too wide for the narrow road, use it. Or the road from Petersfield to Midhurst. This has been widened and straightened up to the western entrance of the village of Rogate, where old cottages jut out and the village cross-road makes special care necessary at all times. These partial improvements certainly increase the danger of accidents, and do very little in their present state to increase speed of communication.

The Uneatable and Unspeakable Crime.—The Duke of Roxburghe, when chairman of the Buccleuch Hunt, shot a fox on the territory of the Jed Forest Hunt. There were wigs on the Border Green, where such tow-rows are not uncommon. As a result the Duke apologised and resigned his chairmanship. When Wilde described foxhunting as the pursuit of the uneatable by the unspeakable, he was having a dig at fox-hunting men and women whom he considered less æsthetic than they should be. In the Border country still, as among the Midland crack hunts, the death of a fox by any means save that of the jaws of hounds is still an unspeakable crime. But it is not so everywhere to-day. In some shires, where hunting must be pursued along barbed-wire-bordered roads, even M.F.H.s consent to the destruction of foxes by shotguns in areas where hounds can never kill them, and I must confess that under licence and, indeed, encouragement, I have myself been guilty of the unspeakable crime in full view of a fellow-gun and member of the Hunt who was consenting unto the death. No doubt it all depends on the attitude of poultry-keepers, who naturally demand adequate results from their local hunts. The Buccleuch and Jed Forest packs regard themselves as adequate pest-controllers still, and so the Duke's crime was unspeakable and his punishment fits the crime.

THE OLD STAGER



VISTAS OF ROME

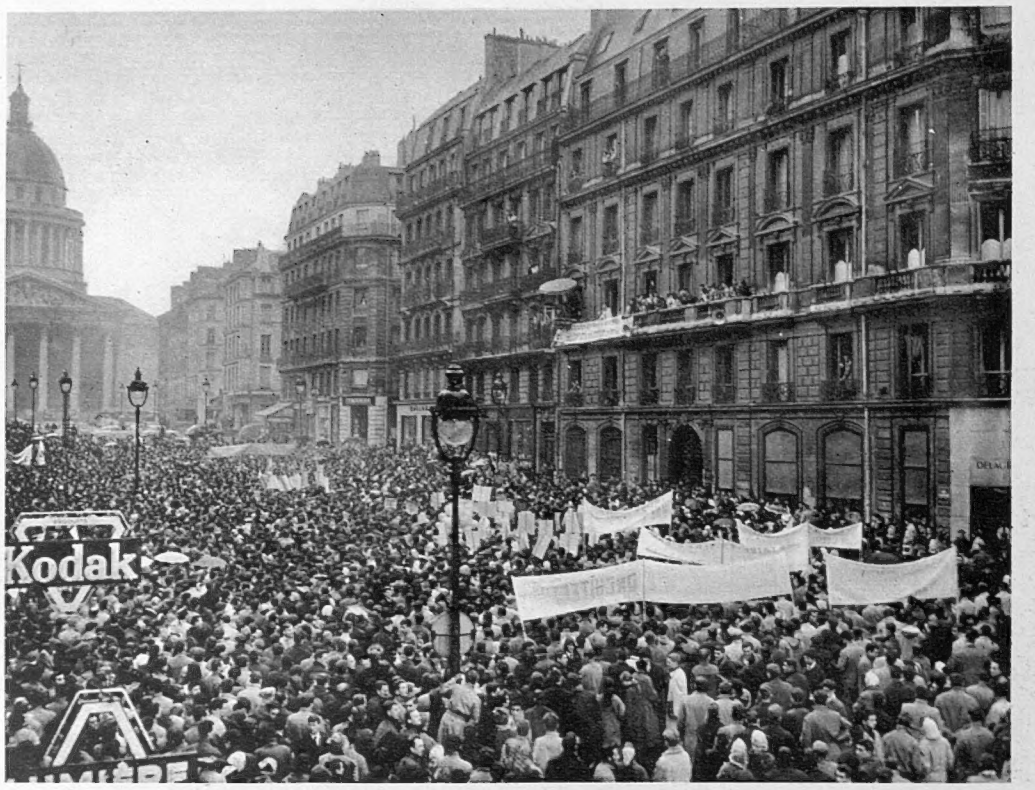
Unusual Pictures Showing the Spacious Squares and Roman Buildings and Monuments in the City

"THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS ROME": The elliptical amphitheatre of the Colosseum can be seen in this unusual picture taken from the bastions. Inside the high exterior wall, the building was divided into three parts. In the centre was the arena, measuring 83 yards by 50 yards. Excavation has revealed the subterranean passages used for the arrangements of the spectacles, and the dens of the wild beasts. An alternative theory for the present condition of the arena asserts that the remains are of buildings erected at a later date when the Colosseum was used as a fort. A wall about 15 ft. high surrounded the arena. At the top of this was the podium, a broad, parapeted terrace on which was placed the imperial couch. The rest of the terrace was reserved for senators, pontiffs, vestals, foreign ambassadors and other important persons. Above this rose the three tiers of the Cavea for knights and the populace. Above the topmost tier was a colonnade to which women were admitted. At the very top was a narrow platform for those men who had to attend the awning. The popular name of the amphitheatre first occurs in the writings of the Venerable Bede who quotes a prophecy: "While the Colosseum stands, Rome shall stand; when the Colosseum falls, Rome shall fall; when Rome falls, the world shall fall." Although practically two-thirds of the building has been removed (by the fifteenth century it was found a useful quarry) it remains an awe-inspiring sight.

Above—**ST. PETER'S SQUARE: From the Basilica, the elegant pattern of one of the biggest squares in the world is spread out below.** In the background the straight street stretching away into the distance is Via della Conciliazione. In the centre is the obelisk brought from Heliopolis, in Egypt, by order of the Emperor Caligula and transferred to its present position in 1586. On either side are two fountains in the Baroque style which were constructed in the seventeenth century. The semi-circular colonnades were built by Bernini in 1656 to 1667. Each has a quadruple row of Doric columns. Left foreground are some of the Vatican buildings.

Below—**THE PIAZZA DEL CAMPIDOGLIO: From the staircase of the Palazzo Senatorio (the Town Hall) the Palazzo dei Conservatori is on the left and the Palazzo del Museo on the right.** The square and the three surrounding palaces were designed by Michelangelo. In the centre is the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, an extremely rare imperial statue owing its preservation to the medieval belief that it represented the Emperor Constantine. The two Roman statues (background, centre) at the top of the stairway were placed there by Michelangelo. Background, right, is the top of the monument to Victor Emmanuel II.

THE NEWS IN PICTURES



STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE IN PARIS: A dense crowd of young men and women packs the Rue Soufflot, outside the headquarters of the National Union of French Students. The demonstrators were asking for better facilities for students and the banners proclaimed a strong protest against the lack of accommodation, technical facilities, grants and adequate teaching staff.

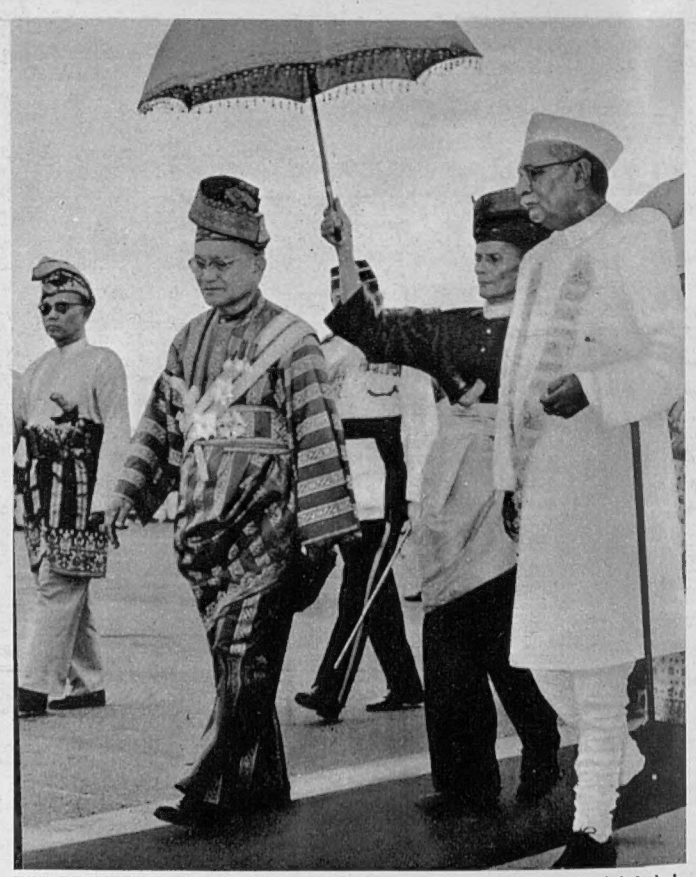
"THE BATTLE OF THE CHAMPAGNES": The notice above the door in Paris of one of the "Whisky à Gogo" ("Whisky Galore") bars states that it is temporarily closed as a protest. "Scotch remains English, Champagne should remain French." The bars specialising in the sale of Scotch whisky closed for a week from December 9 to mark their disapproval of the recent British court decision in the "Spanish Champagne" case. The owners of the Gogo bars declared that for many years they had defended the cause of Scotch whisky against its imitators and that Britain should do the same for French Champagne. There were various other moves being made in the Battle of the Champagnes last week.

On right—

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: M. Chaban-Delmas takes the chair in Paris. He was elected to the office after two ballots and will be President for five years (or the life of the Legislature) and fourth man in the official hierarchy under the new French Constitution. A member of the new Gaullist Party, the Union of the New Republic, M. Chaban-Delmas is aged forty-three and a familiar figure in the French political scene. He has held Ministerial office in several previous French Governments.

TO TAKE THE CHAIR AT THE FRENCH SENATE: M. Gaston Monnerville (right) accepts congratulations for having been chosen as President of the French Senate. It was the sixteenth time he had been elected to this office. With Parliament having assembled, interest in French politics is turning to the forthcoming Presidential election.

A "MOPPING-UP" OPERATION IN THE CAPITAL OF BURMA: Soldiers of the Burmese Army load garbage and rubble into a lorry in a street in Rangoon. They were some of the troops who were engaged in a day of cleaning up in the city. Some 2,000 employees of the Corporation and 500 civilian volunteers joined in the operation, which was planned as part of the current campaign instituted by the authorities to give the 740,000 inhabitants of the capital a sense of civic responsibility and pride in their city.



THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA IN MALAYA: Dr. Rajendra Prasad (right) is escorted by Tuanku Abdul Rahman (walking under the umbrella), the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong*, or Head of State of the Federation of Malaya, at the airport in Kuala Lumpur. The President of India had arrived in his special airliner to make a short visit to Malaya.

THE NEWS IN PICTURES

A SERIOUS INCIDENT ON THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN BORDER: Salvage operations are carried out in the ruins of a house in the Israeli settlement of Hulata, in the Lake Huleh area. It was one of a number of buildings there which was heavily shelled from the Syrian side of the nearby frontier early this month. One man was stated to have been killed and four wounded. The Israeli Government immediately protested to the Security Council, its representative declaring that the bombardment was "an act of war." The Israelis regard the shellings as the most serious provocation since the incidents which caused them to launch the Sinai campaign of two years ago.

THE END OF AN EOKA ARMS DUMP: The house in the village of Lapithos, in northern Cyprus, has been blown up by British Security Forces. They had discovered a large store of Eoka explosives which were hidden in the walls of the building. The bulk of the arms consisted of bombs. The drive against the terrorists continued last week, while outside the island the powers concerned made further moves to try and find a settlement for the Cyprus problem. In a long statement to the House of Commons, Mr. Macmillan expressed modest hopes that something might come out of the North Atlantic Council meeting in Paris, which both the Greek and Turkish Foreign Ministers were expected to attend. In Athens there were indications that Greece might be prepared to consider again M. Spaak's Cyprus plan.

On right—

THE TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER IN BRITAIN: Dr. Fazil Kutchuk is chaired by some of the Turkish Cypriots resident in London who had come to meet him on his arrival at London Airport. In an interview next day he praised the conduct of the British troops in Cyprus.

EAST GERMAN LEADER IN POLAND: Herr Walter Ulbricht (left), the Secretary-General of the German Communist Party, inspects the guard of honour at Warsaw Station. With him is Mr. Gomulka, the Polish Communist leader. A delegation from East Germany, headed by Herr Ulbricht, spent five days in Poland last week. A common theme in the speeches which were made by the East German and the Polish speakers was abuse of West Germany, which was accused by Herr Ulbricht of "wanting to eliminate the Oder-Neisse frontier of peace."

THE PRESENTATION IN STOCKHOLM OF THE NOBEL PRIZE AWARDS FOR 1958: The seven recipients are, from the left: Professor G. W. Beadle (U.S.), Dr. E. L. Tatum (U.S.), Professor I. Tamm (U.S.S.R.), Dr. F. Sanger (Britain), Professor P. A. Cherenkov (U.S.S.R.), Professor I. M. Frank (U.S.S.R.) and Dr. J. Lederberg (U.S.). The three Americans shared the award for medicine, the three Russians the award for physics. Dr. Sanger's award, for chemistry, was not shared. There was an "eloquent silence" during the brief reference to the absence of Mr. Boris Pasternak, the Soviet author who won the award for literature. Recalling that Mr. Pasternak had been given the prize "both for his important contributions to contemporary poetry and for the great Russian epic tradition," and that he had declined the prize, Dr. Österling, secretary of the Royal Swedish Academy, added that this answer "obviously does not change the validity of the distinction. For the academy it remains only to take note with regret that the awarding of the prize cannot take place." The presentation of the prizes by King Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden was watched by about 2,000 people.

THE PRESENTATION IN OSLO OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE: Dr. Gunnar Jahn, Chairman of the Nobel Committee (left), presents the Nobel Peace Prize to Fr. Georges Pire, the Belgian priest, who won it for his work among refugees.

THE NEWS IN PICTURES

CAR CRASH: The shattered remains of a car lie at the side of the road after being in collision with a 10-ton tanker near Slough, in Buckinghamshire. Three people travelling in the car were killed, after it had been hurled against a concrete lamp standard. Two other passengers were injured. It was reported that they had been out to dinner and were in evening dress. The lorry driver received hospital treatment for an injured hand.

On right—

AUSTRALIA WINS THE FIRST TEST MATCH: At the Woolloongabba ground at Brisbane, Trevor Bailey, the England and Essex all-rounder, raises his bat and W. Grout, the Australian wicket-keeper, turns from the wicket during the bowling of Richie Benaud, the Australian captain, in England's first innings. Bailey, later stumped by Grout, scored 27. In the second innings he stayed at the wicket for 458 minutes and scored 68. Australia won by eight wickets.

TRAIN CRASH: The engine of the 5.30 p.m. Liverpool Central to Manchester express lies on its side after striking the bucket of a crane operating on a bridge near the road between Urmston and Trafford Park, Manchester. Five coaches were derailed after the train struck the bucket, which had fallen on the lines. One person was killed and forty injured in the accident.

On left—

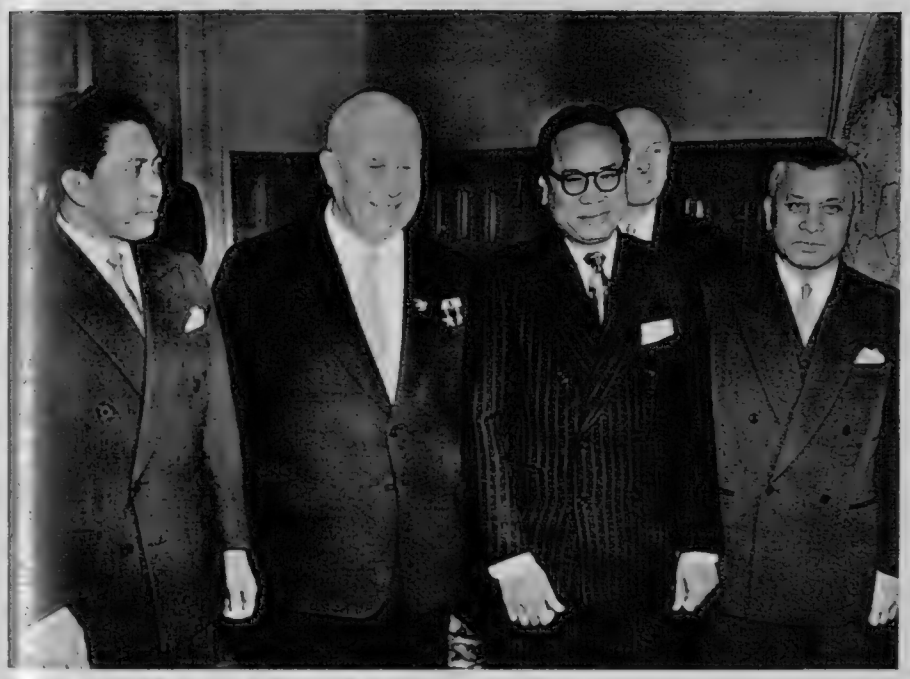
A CLASSIC TRY: P. R. Mills, the Cambridge wing three-quarter, dives over at the corner flag as he is tackled by T. Baxter, to score Cambridge's third try in the Varsity match at Twickenham. Others are L. D. Watts, the Oxford player nearest to Mills, with, in dark jerseys, behind him, M. S. Phillips (left) and A. G. R. Sheil (right). The Cambridge captain, G. Windsor Lewis, is in front of the referee. Behind the touch judge is G. H. Waddell, the Cambridge fly-half, who was responsible for much of Cambridge's success in the match, which they won by 17 points to 6.

FORMER C.I.G.S. INSPECTS A TOY ARMY: Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer inspects a parade of model soldiers in a Christmas exhibition which he opened at Bewlays, 138, Park Lane. The exhibition, of model soldiers (in authentic uniforms) through the ages, is in aid of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. Main theme of the display is the glory of the British fighting man; from the Ancient Briton to the present day. It is continuing until January 10.

PREPARING THE DECORATIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S CHELSEA ARTS BALL: Using a paintbrush with a long bamboo handle, Alexander Bilibin works on the gigantic backcloth which, as usual, will form one of the main features of the decorations at the ball, which is held at the Royal Albert Hall. The main design on the backcloth is a 60-ft.-high figure of Augustus John, the eminent eighty-year-old artist. This year, the famous New Year's Eve ball celebrates its golden jubilee and it is this theme that the decorations portray. There will be the usual parade of floats.

THE NEWS IN PICTURES

THE POPE AT A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL IN ROME: *Left*—His Holiness John XXIII holds the thurible during the annual service on the feast of the Immaculate Conception at the foot of the column dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the Piazza di Spagna. *Right*—A fireman on a ladder decorates the figure of the Virgin at the top of the monument. Flowers are placed there each year at the time of the feast. The column was erected in 1857 to commemorate the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin by Pope Pius IX three years before. It stands in the southern section of the Piazza. Among the buildings in the square is Bernini's Collegio di Propaganda Fide and the house of John Keats, where the poet died in February 1821.



THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE KREMLIN: Dr. Subandrio stands between Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Maramis, the Indonesian Ambassador in Moscow. The Indonesian Foreign Minister was visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Russian Foreign Ministry. He was one of many visitors received in recent weeks by the Soviet Prime Minister. Among others have been the former Mexican President, Dr. Cardenas, and the U.S. Senator Humphrey. With the latter Mr. Khrushchev had a long talk.

On left—

RUSSIAN SECURITY CHIEF DISMISSED: General Ivan Serov was last week removed from his post as Chairman of the Soviet Union's Committee for State Security. The official announcement from Moscow stated that he had been released from duties "in connection with his taking up other work." No indication was given of what this work would be. All the general's predecessors as Security Chief of the U.S.S.R. died unnatural deaths. In 1956 he came to London to make the security arrangements for the visit of Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN VENEZUELA: In Caracas, the Presidential candidates discuss an agreement concerning the future composition of the Cabinet to contain representatives of all parties. It was reported that the candidates said privately that no Communists would be included. Seated from left are Admiral Wolfgang Larrazabal, who has been head of the governing junta since the overthrow of the Jimenez dictatorship; Rafael Caldera, of the Moderate Christian Democrats; and Dr. Romulo Betancourt, of the Left-Wing Democratic Action Party. In the early returns, Admiral Larrazabal, supported by the Left-Wing Democratic Republican Union and the Communists, was second to Dr. Betancourt.

CIVIL RIGHTS OF NEGROES IN AMERICA: In Montgomery, in Alabama, the Federal Rights Commission are seated at the start of the hearing into alleged violations of voting rights. From left to right are Doyle Carlton, J. Ernest Wilkins, John A. Hannah, Robert G. Storey, John S. Battle, and the Rev. T. M. Hesburgh. It was the first public hearing by the Commission of the alleged denial to Negroes of the right to vote. It was alleged that Negroes of Macon County, in Alabama, were required to memorise and recite a section of the U.S. Constitution. Judicial officers of the State refused to testify. The Commission sent the court records to the U.S. Attorney-General "for such action as he deems appropriate."

b

World Affairs

FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA SWING TO THE RIGHT

By JOHN CONNELL

THE Chinese have a capacity for ruthless logic which can scarify the Western mind, complicated—and, it might be alleged, blurred—by the accumulation of two millenia in which Christian and humanist ethics have been taught and practised. When the *New Statesman* talks about "the emergence in China of a type of uniform fanaticism and spiritual intolerance for which it would be hard to find any historical parallel," it is a clear indication of the depths of the alarm into which the weaker, more muddle-headed brethren have been plunged. This is the effect of being confronted—even at a distance—with the logical fulfilment of Socialist doctrine. The Russians, who are far less fussy about individual freedom than a Western-educated social-democrat, but who are busy with their belated and laborious industrial and scientific revolution, are hardly less frightened. The Chinese simply say, "We are the true and faithful Socialists," and herd the population, uprooted from its immemorial village associations, into dismal barracks and marshal it mercilessly for its co-ordinated and controlled labour output. They are, on the plane of doctrine, perfectly right: this is not "the experiment in Socialism" about which European social-democrats used to love to prattle; *this is Socialism*—and it is a grave shock.

Is it entirely by chance, therefore, that the year which has seen this completion and consolidation of Socialism in Communist China has also witnessed, notably and most recently in Australia and in France, a vigorous electoral swing away from Socialism of all brands? Within the somewhat fluid confines of the British Commonwealth, Mr. Menzies' victory at the polls has its own heartening significance; and it must be clearly realised that it is not only of internal interest. There is one major difference between Western European and Australasian political and geographical terminology: we talk still about the Far East, people in Australia and New Zealand use the phrase "Near North." The geographical proximity of turbulent, chaotic South-East Asia and of China makes the problems and the perils of this region wear a somewhat different look in Sydney or in Auckland from that offered from a window overlooking Lincoln's Inn Fields.

With the French it is not just a matter of mileage. The French, who in recent years had worn every appearance of having been bludgeoned by their tribulations into fatalistic, shoulder-shrugging acceptance, have now demonstrated—not for the first time in their history—their capacity for moral and spiritual resurgence. They are in a mood of acutely heightened political sensibility. Their image of themselves has been cleansed—by their own exertions, and without the assistance (doubtless well-meant, but so patronising as to be intolerable) of Britain or the United States. Here in this country twenty years ago we knew in our hearts that the policy of appeasement of Nazi Germany had made our image of ourselves grubby and dwarfish and feeble; whatever else Winston Churchill did or did not do in World War II, he restored to us in 1940 faith in ourselves and in our own greatness. This is the measure of de Gaulle's analagous achievement in France: he has persuaded the French not to be self-pitying and greedy and petty-minded, but once more to have faith in themselves and in their own greatness. This is not mysticism, as its critics argue, but sheer common sense.

Ordinary Frenchmen realise now that the glories of France are not merely a matter of *son et lumière* on a late summer evening at Versailles or the châteaux of the Loire; they are immanent and eternal. It is not fortuitous that this moral renaissance coincides with the electoral eclipse of the parties of the Left. They were parties merely of manœuvre—and they were very expert in manœuvre—but they were without inspiration or faith. In the end people as civilised and as intelligent as the French weary of political manœuvre, however intricate and ingenious its patterns. They want a faith to live by.

What has happened in France and in Australia must not, in any circumstances, be confused with the *coups d'état* and the establishment of military dictatorships in the Arab and Islamic countries (a process which I attempted to analyse a few weeks ago); it is evidence of the intellectual, indeed of the spiritual, sterility and frustration of the Left that there is a tendency to attempt precisely this identification. In the Islamic countries a Western-type parliamentary democracy, which was without deep or stable roots of any kind, has been contemptuously rejected, and their peoples are reverting to their society's ancient patterns. It is contemptible to pretend that the French, any more than the Australians, have abandoned either their belief in or their practice of freedom.

Those who talk about the French having "for the first time since 1871, voted into power an anti-parliamentary Assembly," ought to remind themselves that it was de Gaulle who rescued France from the dishonourable squalors of the Vichy régime and in a single stroke abolished all its dingy apparatus as if it had never been. De Gaulle is not, and never has been, "anti-parliamentary." He was simply not prepared in 1958, any more than he was prepared in 1940, to let his country destroy itself.

Socialism, of a Western European, supposedly democratic character, is sometimes a moribund creed. But to reject Socialism is by no means to reject democracy. This is a concept which Socialists inevitably find it hard to comprehend. If in some countries which have tried it, the "Socialist experiment," within the democratic framework, is demonstrated to be inefficient, maladroit and inequitable, and is abandoned by the clearly (perhaps even angrily) expressed wishes of the electorate, then the Socialists, as soon as they recover from the initial shock of dismay, hasten to explain that the only alternative is "Fascism" and to clamour that their political opponents who have defeated them at the polls are, whatever they may say or do to the contrary, at heart "Fascists."

These accusations are, of course, mendacious nonsense. For slightly over seven years, for example, the United Kingdom has had a succession of non-Socialist Governments which, however unfavourable a view one may take of some or all of their activities, can by no stretch of the imagination be described as Fascist. In Australia, where politics are traditionally pretty robust, there is probably no more staunch upholder of personal liberty than the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies. General de Gaulle has repeatedly been called a Fascist; yet it is his combination of inflexible patriotism with a profound, undeviating respect for the human spirit which, after years of quiet exile, has brought him back to political power.

The Fourth Republic perished as a victim not of any conspiracy, but of its own defects—irresponsibility and inefficiency and, on the part of its leaders, a pathological concentration on the *trivia* of politics instead of on the realities of statecraft. These are by no means endemic defects in a democracy, but they are a frequent source of infection, and the swing to the Right, which is so widespread a contemporary political phenomenon, can best be understood as a natural and healthy reaction against this infection. To this extent it is undoubtedly negative.

But ought politics in a universal-suffrage democracy, to be overwhelmingly and persistently positive? A positive programme is apt to savour, more and more, of mass bribery. Some negation of the exploded theories of Socialism, in as many countries as possible, may be, in the long run, all to the good. For so-called "democratic" Socialists are faced with a perpetual dilemma which they have never yet been able to resolve. This is not to impugn their sincerity but to question their capacity for clear thought. As has been abundantly demonstrated, both in the Soviet Union and in Communist China, Socialism, in order to be efficient, must be a totalitarian tyranny; if a Socialist régime seeks to respect the individual's freedom of choice and opportunity, in work and leisure, then internal inconsistencies and doctrinal and emotional stresses produce a calamitous inefficiency in day-to-day workings.

A large part of civilised society, in many nations, has no wish that its processes of government should be either tyrannical or inefficient. It chooses a third alternative; and it is pretty widely recognised nowadays that this is not, of necessity, a hideous alternative. Do Socialists themselves really believe this any longer?

I have been pondering two observations in last week's issue of the *New Statesman*. The first was in its main leader: "Those, like this journal, who predicted that de Gaulle would prove a Trojan Horse from which the Fascists would emerge to capture the citadel of French democracy, have seen their prophecies tragically fulfilled." The second was in Critic's diary.. "I did not find that the Menzies dictatorship was at all popular with thoughtful people, but they lack hope of an alternative and have no organs of expression."

Both comments evade the cardinal issue, in French and Australian politics—the simple fact that the Governments are there, not by any illegal or conspiratorial seizure of power, nor by any process of corruption of the workings of democracy, but by the freely-expressed will of the majority of the people, as manifested in the ballot-box. Inconvenient and depressing as this may seem to ardent Socialists like Mr. Kingsley Martin, the Editor of *The New Statesman*, it is what is usually called democracy. There are, in addition, one or two aspects of the swing to the Right, in France and in Australia, which deserve to be mentioned: are Opposition newspapers suppressed or censored? Are Opposition M.P.s disenfranchised and imprisoned? Are labour camps being set up for the politically refractory? No; but these activities are perfectly normal in certain countries all over the world whose Governments proudly proclaim themselves to be Socialist.

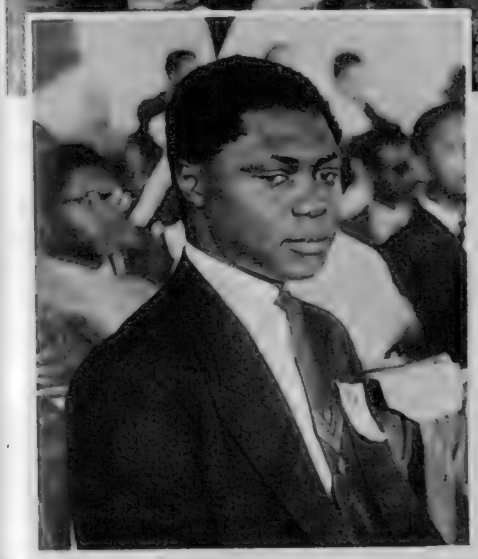
PRIME MINISTERS OF RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENTS: *Left*—Mr. Menzies escorts Mr. Macmillan into the Parliament House at Canberra during the latter's visit to Australia early this year. In the recent Australian elections Mr. Menzies was returned with an increased majority. *Right*—General de Gaulle applauds at the opening of the new French Assembly. Next to him is M. Guy Mollet.

FREEDOM AND ECONOMICS

The All-African Peoples' Conference in Accra; Afro-Asian Meetings in Cairo

Africa was the scene of two large-scale conferences last week. In Accra at the All-African Peoples' Conference, the theme, according to Dr. Nkrumah, was to plan for "a final assault upon Imperialism and Colonialism." However, there did not appear to be complete agreement on how this campaign should be conducted. It was reported that one delegate, Prince Zakarin, of Mauretania, proposed to criticise Dr. Nkrumah as "a lackey of London" and other West Africans as "Imperialist stooges," because they stayed in the British Commonwealth. An advance copy of his intended remarks fell into the hands of the Steering Committee and it was understood that the Prince was to be deported from Ghana. On the other hand, approval for Britain was voiced by Mr. T. Slim, the Tunisian Ambassador in London. He told delegates that Britain's policy towards certain of her territories in Africa was an example "worthy of emulation."

In Cairo, at the gathering for the first economic conference of Chambers of Commerce in Afro-Asian countries, the European Common Market took a prominent place on the agenda. It was described as "a real threat" to the economies of Africa and Asia. Much time was concerned with Russia, which had sent a delegation. The Indonesians protested that the Soviet Union should be represented only by observers.



"HANDS OFF AFRICA! AFRICA MUST BE FREE": The slogan above the platform sets the tone for the All-African Peoples' Conference as 200 delegates from twenty-five countries assemble in Accra for the first session. The proceedings were opened by Dr. Nkrumah, who was attending as Chairman of the Convention People's Party rather than as Premier of Ghana. He declared that African countries had four tasks: the attainment of freedom and independence; the consolidation of that freedom; the creation of unity and community between the free African states; and economic and social reconstruction.

On left—

CHAIRMAN OF THE ALL-AFRICAN PEOPLES' CONFERENCE: Mr. Tom Mboya, of Kenya, presides over the gathering in Accra. He told the delegates: "What Africans are fighting for is nothing revolutionary. It is found in the Charter of the United Nations, endorsed by the very Colonial Powers. We are determined to free Africa, whether the Colonial Powers like it or not."

THE VENUE FOR THE PAN-AFRICAN GATHERING: The flags of the countries represented at Ghana fly from each side of the entrance to the Community Centre, where the All-African Peoples' Conference met.

TRADE EXPERTS FROM ASIA AND AFRICA IN SESSION IN CAIRO: *Left*—Representatives from the Chambers of Commerce from thirty-nine Asian or African countries attend the inaugural meeting of their four days of discussion. In the second row, from left, are Mr. Kisselev, the Soviet Ambassador in Cairo; Mr. Chiakang, the Chinese Ambassador, and Abdel Salam Aboulela, leader of the Sudanese delegation. *Right*—Three leaders of delegations are, from the right, Mr. Ruia (India), Mr. Soebehan (Indonesia) and Mr. Bonsu (Ghana).

"UNDERBELLY" OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Current Politics in the Horn of Africa and Southern Arabia

By STEWART THOMSON

IN mid-October, when the military *coup* in the Sudan took place, I was in Somalia, the former Italian colony which since 1950 has been administered by the Italians under U.N. trusteeship and which has been promised its independence in 1960. First assumption in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, was that Nasser had gained another victory over Western democracy. Even when this assumption proved incorrect—but for the *coup* a pro-Nasser government would almost certainly be in power in Khartoum to-day—Somali politicians still pointed out somewhat self-righteously that there are no generals in Somalia to take over, if the political parties become bogged down.

That, of course, is true. There is a vast area of the Arabian peninsula and north-east Africa from the Persian Gulf to the Equator in which there is no Officers' Corps on the Egyptian, Iraqi or Sudanese pattern. Armed forces such as the Trucial Oman Levies are small and they are organised on a tribal basis. These forces are only equipped to maintain internal security, not to act as instruments of political power. One result of this has been that in the Persian Gulf, the Southern Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa militant Arab nationalism has made much less impact than in the more developed States of the Middle East.

There is a strong temptation to regard each military *coup* when it happens as part of the same basic pattern and to see the hand of Nasser or Russia behind it. This is only partly the case. When the news of the Sudanese *coup* reached Mogadishu, a member of the Italian administration remarked ruefully that someone appeared to have worked out a very neat recipe of revolution for the various Arab Chiefs of Staff. Yet later he admitted that the Sudanese had found a recipe of their own. To try to analyse it by Western standards is highly misleading.

Economically and socially the Sudan is much closer to the Horn of Africa and Southern Arabia than it is to Egypt or the countries of the Fertile Crescent. Not only is it predominantly agricultural, but its social structure, especially in the south, is still tribal. Like the entire area from the Trucial coast to Kenya, it is for the most part a huge patchwork quilt of religious or tribal groups, many of whom do not even have a common language. One inestimable advantage the Sudan has over the rest of that area is water.

Throughout a ten-hour flight from the headquarters of the Trucial Oman Levies in Sharjah to Mogadishu I saw virtually no cultivated land. For the most part it is desert or barren mountains, where the occasional few acres of cotton or millet are dependent on rainfall. The Abyan cotton scheme in the Western Aden Protectorate does, it is true, cover some 45,000 acres, but the crop I saw a few weeks ago had clearly suffered from insufficient flooding. The million acres of the Gezireh cotton scheme in the Sudan can draw on both the Blue and the White Nile, and when the Menagel extension is completed a second million acres will be under cultivation.

British Somaliland and Somalia are even less productive than the Aden Protectorates. Hence the continued bitterness of the Somalis at having lost one of their few rich grazing districts, the Ogaden, to Ethiopia. Under an agreement reached with the Ethiopians in 1954 the British are allowed to maintain a skeleton administrative staff in these "scheduled areas" to look after the interests of the Somali nomads who move in every year to graze their flocks. I did not get the impression that the Ethiopians have made the work of the liaison officers particularly easy. The Somalia nationalists give almost as high priority to the recovery of these "scheduled areas" as to the creation of an independent Greater Somalia.

That a Greater Somalia, even if it included the Ogaden, has little or no prospect of becoming economically independent is something that gives Somali nationalists no anxious moments. "If you, the West, don't give us financial aid," one of them said to me, "the Russians will." However wide the gulf between political ambitions and economic reality, the cold war can be relied upon to close it. And there is always the eternal hope of finding oil.

So far no oil worth exploiting has been discovered in southern Arabia or in the Horn of Africa. But it is not difficult to imagine what would happen if it were found. There seems to be a good prospect of an oil-strike in Das Island, off the Trucial coast at Abu Dabi. Should this particular dream come true, the Trucial Sheikdoms have agreed that part at least of the proceeds will be shared. No such agreement exists in the Aden Protectorate, and an oil-strike in Somaliland would be just as likely to sharpen as to overcome tribal differences.

GRADUAL EVOLUTION TOWARDS SELF-GOVERNMENT: Sir Theodore Pike, the Governor of British Somaliland, is seen reading the Address from the Chair at the opening of the Protectorate's Legislative Council in Hargeisa last May. The Legislative Council has a Somali minority, but soon the number of unofficial members will be doubled.

On right—

BRITISH SOMALILAND PERSONALITIES: From left are Mr. Michael Mariano; Sultan Abdarahman; Sultan Abdillahi and Mr. Dubeh Ali. The picture was taken in London three years ago.

THE HORN OF AFRICA AND SOUTHERN ARABIA: Below Egypt and Saudi Arabia, militant Arab nationalism has made much less impact than in the more developed states in the Middle East.

SUDAN'S PRIME MINISTER OFF DUTY: General Abboud, leader of the recent *coup*, wears a kerchief round his head as he holds his youngest son, Hatem.

If, as the examples of Iraq and the Sudan seem to indicate, economic wealth does not improve the chances for political democracy, what kind of future have impoverished territories like the Aden Protectorates and the Horn of Africa? British policy has been based on the assumption that existing social structures cannot be argued out of existence and that the major responsibility for changing them should be left to the native population themselves. Thus in the oil-rich sheikdoms of the Persian Gulf British Residents and Agents have encouraged the spread of education and improved social welfare but have made no serious attempt to persuade the rulers, much less compel them, to become less autocratic. The rulers of Kuwait, Bahrein and Qatar still take between a quarter and a third of the large oil revenues for their own use and that of their relatives. And they continue to exercise arbitrary jurisdiction over their subjects.

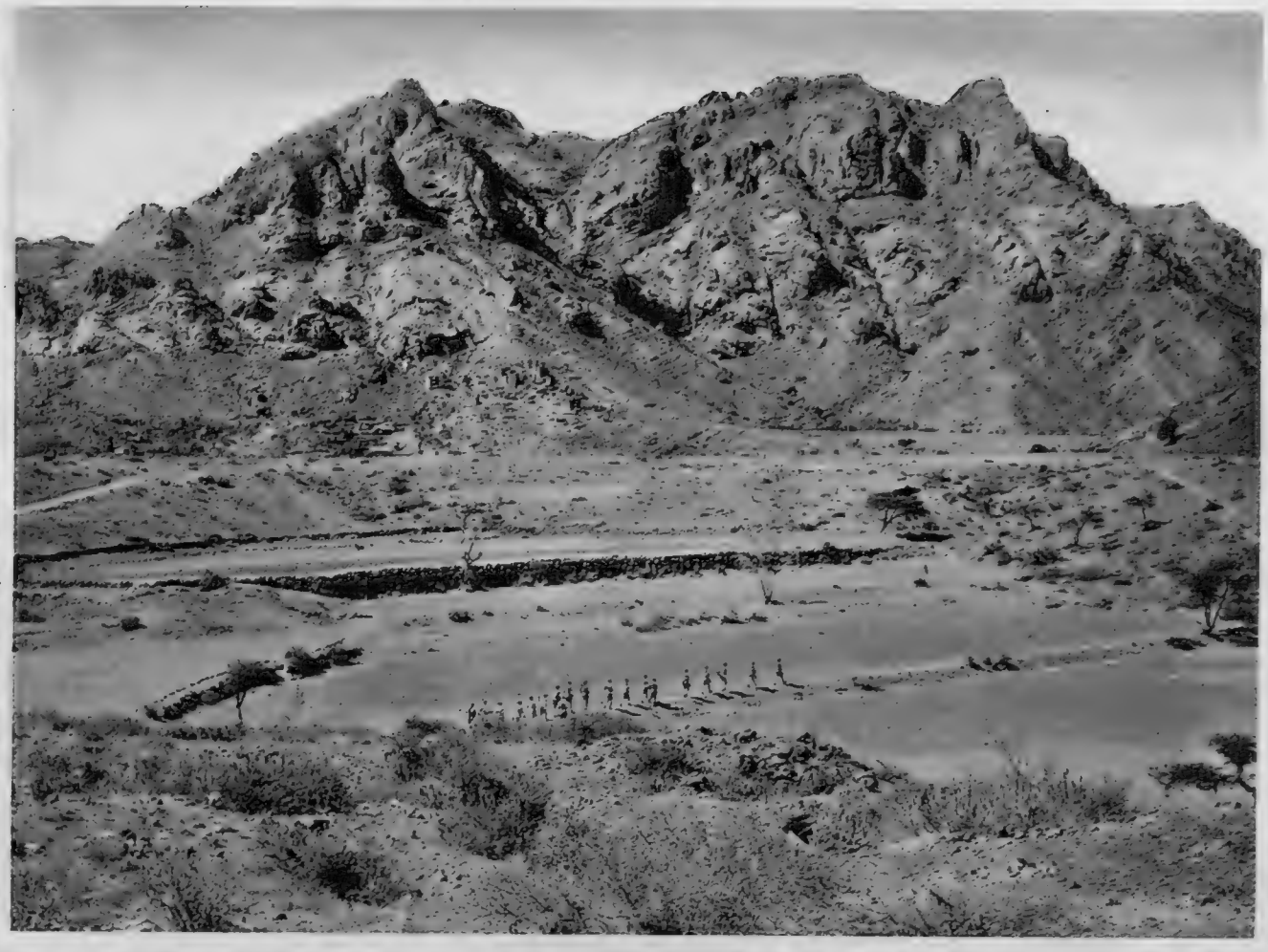
In the Aden Protectorate, where the majority of the twenty-three rulers are entirely dependent on the British Government for financial support and many of them for military protection against the frequent raids from the Yemen, there is little or no pressure on the rulers to abandon any of their traditional authority. In the colony of Aden, on the other hand, with its thriving port and its active trade unions there is a persistent demand for a greater measure of self-government. The projected Federation of the Western Protectorate is designed not so much to achieve closer political unity as to give the eighteen States involved more economic cohesion and greater security against the Yemen. The next step envisaged in the Colony, however, is a political one. Elections are to be held for a new Legislative Assembly early next year, when the Adenis, for the first time, will have a majority—though only of one.

This very gradual approach towards self-government is one of the main complaints against British policy by nationalists in Aden and elsewhere. It has become particularly sharp on the other side of the Gulf of Aden, in British Somaliland, where the same gradual and apparently reluctant progression as in Aden contrasts strongly with the rapid advance towards complete self-government in the Italian-administered Somalia.

At first glance, the difference is certainly depressing from a British viewpoint. But on closer investigation I found that the picture in Somaliland is by no means so black nor the picture in Somalia so white as many people maintain. Since 1950 the Italian administration have been committed by a resolution of the U.N. General Assembly to leave the Somalis in complete control—by 1960. In fact, since May of last year responsibility for legislation has been largely in the hands of Somalis. The first municipal elections were held as long ago as March 1954, and two years later the first Legislative Assembly was elected. When the next Assembly is elected in a few weeks' time, it will be, as the Prime Minister

SWIFT APPROACH TO INDEPENDENCE: On the tribune at the Legislative Assembly of Somalia at Mogadishu, Mr. Benjamin Cohen, Secretary of the United Nations Trusteeship, is on extreme left, Signor Enrico Anzilotti, the Italian Administrator, third from left, and Aden Abdulla Osman, President of the Assembly, fourth from left. The U.N. has decided Somalia is to be fully independent by 1960.

On right—



THE DESERT WASTES OF THE ADEN PROTECTORATE: A military patrol makes its way through the barren country, typical of much of the territory. In Aden, water is the great need for land development.

SEARCH FOR OIL IN THE PERSIAN GULF : The mobile drilling barge *Adma Enterprise*, which was built in Germany and towed out to the Middle East, is in position in the harbour of Das Island, in the Persian Gulf off the Trucial coast. Prospects of an oil strike here are considered good.

DEMONSTRATION IN BAGDAD: Portraits of General Kassem surround a picture of a figure hanging from a gibbet. The demonstrators were demanding the death sentence, which was duly passed, for the former Iraqi Premier, Fadhil Jamali.

remarked to me proudly, by secret ballot on the basis of direct and universal suffrage.

Progress in British Somaliland seems, by comparison, slight. In Hargeisa there are no Somali Ministers. The British Governor still wields supreme legislative and executive powers. The Executive Council is entirely British; the Legislative Council has a Somali minority. This is shortly to be changed. The number of unofficial members in the Legislative Council will be doubled and will, for the first time, be chosen by direct election. And they are to be more closely associated with the work of the administration and the Executive Council.

It is, of course, still argued by Somali Nationalists that British Somaliland should be keeping pace with Somalia and should also become independent in 1960. This would involve a major change of British policy. That is not impossible. But after a fairly careful investigation of conditions in the Somaliland Protectorate and Somalia I came to the conclusion that the U.N. were wise to name a date for Somali independence but that they made it several years too early. Most of the senior posts in Somalia from Prime Minister down to District Commission level have already been "Somalized," but below this level very much less progress has been made. The last report by the U.N. Advisory Council pointed out, for example, that only seven out of seventeen Civil Service department heads are Somalis and that in the field of education the output of Somali teachers is still too low.

The Somaliland Protectorate Government has pursued exactly the opposite policy. It has concentrated so far on the seven-eighths of the iceberg below water, not on the one-eighth above. Whereas in Somalia an attempt has been made to set up political parties and electoral lists regardless of tribal groupings—an experiment which, I believe, is already in danger of failing—the Protectorate Government has taken full account of tribal interests.

Both the British and the U.N. experiments are, however, being conducted under strong external pressure. The most potent outside influence is radio propaganda, for it can ignore the high barriers of illiteracy. Moscow, Cairo and Bagdad are particularly active not only in the Horn of Africa, but throughout Southern Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Bagdad Radio seems to me to have the strongest appeal in Arabia, at least for the time being, but the Voice of the Arabs comes a close second. In the Horn of Africa, Cairo is nearest and strongest.

This whole vast territory—the soft underbelly of the Middle East—is a happy hunting-ground for political subversion. In the Persian Gulf wealth is still badly distributed, and with the spread of education there comes a growing sense of grievance. In the colony of Aden a relatively high standard of living has drawn thousands of migrants, mainly from the Yemen, who are a constant source of unrest, while in the Aden Protectorate the unsettled border with the Yemen is a constant threat to security and puts a brake on development. In both Somaliland and Somalia the extreme Nationalists see in Nasser's brand of positive neutrality a positive magic which will close the yawning gap between political independence and economic poverty.

Enlightened and moderate leaders like the present Prime Minister of Somalia and Mr. Michael Mariano, of the National United Front in Somaliland, realise that there is no magical solution to their problems and are fully alive to the dangers of linking too closely with the United Arab Republic or the Soviet bloc. But they know, too, that certain basic demands must be made and met if they are to keep their followers and prevent extremism from gaining the upper hand.

So long as 95 per cent. and even more of the population of the Arab and African countries are illiterate, democracy cannot take root. It can only function on a very limited scale and at the topmost level. On a long-term basis the principle of nominated representatives gradually giving way to elected representatives is almost certainly the soundest, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to make long-term plans. A compromise must, therefore, be found which will quicken the advance towards self-government without plunging headlong into universal suffrage and the anarchy—or dictatorship—that is almost bound to follow.

WINTER SEASON AT LA SCALA

Puccini's "Turandot" Performed at the Opera House in Milan

On right—

A PACKED AUDITORIUM: From the stage can be seen the tiers of seats in La Scala Theatre in Milan. The brilliant audience filled all the 2,800 seats of this historic opera house to hear a performance of Puccini's *Turandot*, which opened the Winter Season. Present at the performance was Donna Carla Gronchi, the wife of the President of Italy. Puccini's last opera, *Turandot*, was given its first performance at La Scala in April of 1926. He never lived to complete the last act. It was appropriate to open a season at La Scala, the scene of many operatic triumphs, with this opera by one of Italy's favourite composers. Puccini's *Edgar* and *Madame Butterfly* were also given their first performances in Milan. One of the most famous and important opera houses in the world, La Scala was opened in 1778; after being reduced to an empty shell during the Second World War, it was restored and reopened in May of 1946.

On left—

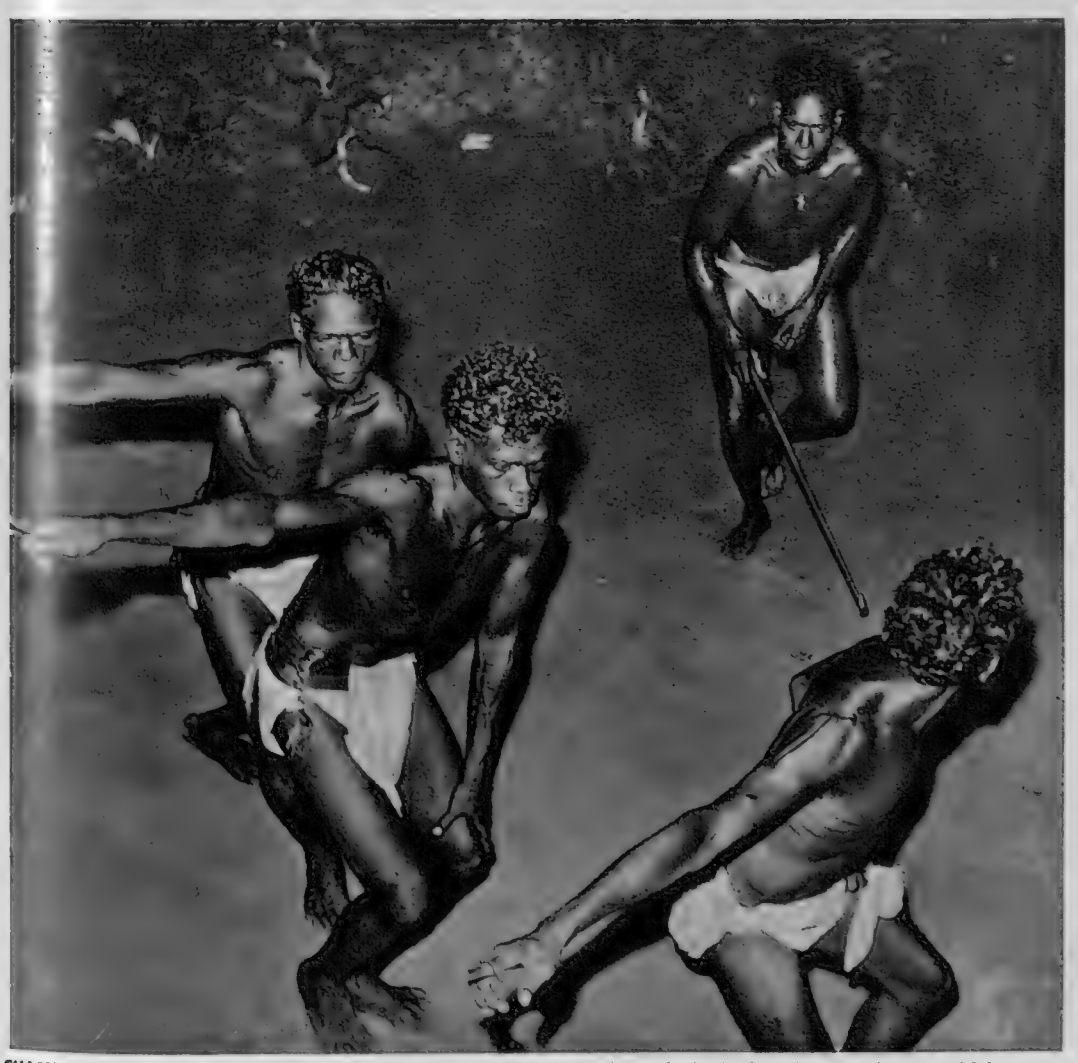
QUEUEING UP: Outside the opera house some of the audience in evening dress wait to attend the opening night of the Winter Season which started early this month.

On right—

A CURTAIN CALL: At the end of the performance of Puccini's *Turandot*, members of the cast come forward to bow to the audience. Second from the left is Birgit Nilsson, the Swedish soprano, in the leading role of Princess Turandot in this tale of old Pekin.

AN ELABORATE AND LAVISH SETTING: In this scene in the second act of the opera, the full court of the Emperor of China is assembled. *Left*—Standing on the steps of the throne is Birgit Nilsson as the Princess, and bottom right, the tenor Giuseppe di Stephano. The performance was received with great applause.

REHEARSAL FOR THE MUSICIANS : Practising for a corroboree held in mourning for one of the tribe who has died are some of the musicians of the Tiwi people, an aboriginal tribe living on Melville Island, off the north coast of Australia. The man on the left is beating out the rhythm with two pieces of wood, while another blows down the long hollow tube called a didjeridoo. This instrument produces a loud, deep, booming noise. They are accompanied by hand-clapping. The corroboree was held at the tribal burial-grounds near Snake Bay, on Melville Island, a protected area for aborigines.



CHASING AWAY THE EVIL SPIRITS : The men of the tribe dance in a circle during the corroboree, which starts in the evening and goes on throughout the night. The main theme is a hunt for crocodile or buffalo. The dancers who are representing the hunters point out the direction in which their prey has gone.

ABORIGINAL CORROBOREE

The Funeral Dances of the Tiwi Tribe on Melville Island, off the Northern Coast of Australia

Among the aboriginal people of the Tiwi tribe, who live on Melville Island, off the coast of the Northern Territory in Australia, many of the customs handed down over the centuries from their forbears are still carried on. One of these is the corroboree, a funeral dance held after the death of one of the tribesmen. This dance is held to chase away the evil spirits which may hinder the progress of the Tiwi to the Land of the Dead and also to chase away the sorrow attendant upon death. The dancers and the musicians, the women and the children, assemble at the burial-ground near Snake Bay. Guarding the tombs are tall wooden sculptures, sometimes several to a tomb and sometimes more than 10 ft. high. Some of the sculptures are pierced and look rather like a church window; others look like large rolls of thread or are carved to represent the rainbow snake, an important symbol for the tribe.

Before the corroboree takes place, the musicians practise and the dancers taking part paint their bodies, faces and limbs in fantastic patterns. In the evening as the tribes-people surround the dancing ground, fifty men gather in a ring and, accompanied by the various primitive instruments, clasp their hands together and chant. As the moon rises above the encircling eucalyptus trees, the dancing begins to the accompaniment of hand-clapping. Four men representing hunters, armed with spears, pursue another man, unarmed and squatting, who represents a crocodile. Finally, as the hand-clapping increases in intensity, the crocodile is symbolically killed and rolls over dead.

(*Continued on following pages*)

IN THE EARLY EVENING THE TIWI TRIBESMEN START THEIR DANCE : The performers paint their bodies, legs and arms in various patterns with powdered red and white stones mixed with water. As darkness comes and the dancers become frenzied, the patterns are washed away by the sweat pouring off the dancers' bodies.

PAINTED FACES OF THE DANCERS IN THE CORROBOREE : *Left*—A tribesman has painted his eyes dark and his face white, giving his face a skull-like appearance. His beard and hair are red. *Centre*—A Tiwi who has no natural beard makes one out of bird feathers. More feathers decorate his head, and his face and body are daubed with white. *Right*—In the interval between one dance and the next, one man lights his home-rolled cigarette from another dancer's as they wait for the next part of the corroboree to start.

ABORIGINAL CORROBOREE—The Funeral Dances of the Tiwi Tribe

(*Continued from previous page*)

Another of the tribal dances is the pursuit of a buffalo. The performance takes about an hour. Finally, a dancer with arms stretched out to represent horns is chased away into the bush and killed. By this, the tribe considers that all buffaloes are rendered harmless and the dead man can walk unmolested to the Land of the Dead without fear of attack. All the tribe from small boys to women participate in the dances at one time or another, although the women are not allowed to dance until after nightfall. Usually a corroboree continues all night and sometimes may go on for weeks.

A part of the ceremonial is concerned with the widow of the dead hunter. She has been given a new husband by the elders of the tribe. But he is forbidden to the widow until the corroboree is over and has driven away all her sorrow for the dead man. Besides the dancing, the Tiwi people sing or chant to the accompaniment of the instruments and hand-clapping. The songs are usually sad and sung in a high keening tone and have been handed down from generation to generation commemorating past famous events. Besides these, gay rhymes are made up concerning recent happenings. They tell, for instance, of the flying doctors who come to Melville Island from Darwin. One song commemorates the visit of a dentist who had come to tend the teeth of one of the women of the tribe:

> The chief told the dentist that I had a bad tooth—
> O please do not take away my tooth.
> The dentist comes and says: Open your mouth.
> O here he comes to take away my tooth.
> Here he comes with that thing to take out my tooth.
> It was painful and my eyes started to run.

As the songs are handed down from singer to singer, they change ; heroes become giants of valour and skirmishes great battles. They form a historical tradition for these ancient peoples who were the original inhabitants of the vast continent. The dances, although possibly in this sophisticated age not believed in with quite the same fervour as before, appear to operate on the same principles of sympathetic magic practised by other primitive peoples in many parts of the world. According to this belief, to kill the representation of a thing is to kill the object itself. The principle occurred in witchcraft in Europe until comparatively recently. Wax figures made in the likeness of a person were stuck with a pin or melted to cause pain or death. Cases of witches being lynched still occurred in Europe during the last century.

To-day, in their protected territory on Melville Island the Tiwi tribe, only 1,000 strong, still follow patterns of behaviour which have at one time or another been practised in many parts of the world.

BRIGHTLY-PAINTED DANCERS : As members of the tribe watch, two of the Tiwi start the corroboree to chase away evil spirits and sorrow after the death of one of the tribe. Women do not join in the dancing until after nightfall. When a hunter dies, the tribe appoints a new husband for his wife. Until the corroboree is finished, the new husband is taboo to the widow.

AT THE CORROBOREE : Two dancers representing hunters and carrying their spears hunt a crocodile. In the foreground is one of the musicians playing a long hollow tube producing a booming noise. The rest of the tribe who are not dancing join in the singing and hand-clapping.

THE CROCODILE HUNT : With their spears held ready to thrust, the dancers pursue another dancer in a squatting position representing a crocodile. Corroborees usually continue all night and sometimes for weeks.

A WELSH CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

Looking Back on the Festivities in a Remote Village: The Importance of New Year's Day

By BRIAN VESEY-FITZGERALD

CHRISTMAS: the very word recalls childhood. When one thinks of Christmas (at least, when I think of Christmas; but I believe this to be the same with every adult) one thinks first of the Christmasses of childhood. In my case, this is really rather odd, for I was born in Wales, and in a small and then isolated (and still pretty isolated) village in steeply hilly country, and Christmas was not our big day. Christmas was a holiday—that is to say, only the minimum of work, only the essential work of the countryside, was done—and there was a rather special dinner (dinner was the midday meal), with turkey and plum pudding, but it was a quiet day—without parties (though relations might come to tea) and without any particular jollification, a day with a good deal of Bible reading, a rather specially important sort of Sunday, in fact. Our big day was Dydd Calan, New Year's Day.

New Year's Day began with carols. I cannot remember as a small boy any carol-singing at all before Christmas. Carol-singing was something which began immediately after midnight on New Year's morning. It was not the sort of carol-singing in which I could take part: children did not take any part in it at all. It was really serious carol-singing by parties of men (I do not think that any women took part at all) who were sort of unofficial choirs. Some of them would tramp miles over the hills from other villages, and I think that there must have been some good staff-work beforehand, for parties never (as I recall) clashed and it was a point of honour to visit the outlying farms. Being Welsh, these men could sing and took their carol-singing seriously. This was not a matter of one verse, some giggling, and a rap on the door as has become customary in England: this was an accomplished, and indeed devout, exercise. That is not to say that there was no expectation of monetary reward: there was. But there could never have been sufficient reward to make these expeditions worthwhile financially, for this was (and still is) a thinly-populated countryside, and it was, moreover, traditional that carols could only be sung between midnight and dawn. It was not done for the money, but for some other, deeply-rooted, reason.

I do not think that anyone could put a finger squarely on the actual reason. Carols are, in origin, pre-Christian. There seems to be a good deal of doubt about the derivation of the word. Some authorities maintain that it comes from "chorus": others that it comes from *corolla*, which means "a little crown" or "garland." But there seems to be more or less general agreement that the earliest meaning applied to "carol" was "to dance in a circle." A carol, in fact, was a ring-dance. Stonehenge was once known as the "giants' dance," and was sometimes referred to as the "giants' carol."

Certainly, dancing and singing (and usually in a circle around the object of worship) formed a part of religious ceremony from the very earliest times. I do not think that there can be any doubt that carolling—that is, dancing and singing—was part of the pagan ritual taken over by the Christian Church. We know that it used to take place inside churches because the Council of Avignon in 1209 forbade dancing and secular singing in churches. But I suspect that it was really the dancing to which exception was taken, for it is well known that dancing is apt to lead to exercises of another sort. In any case, although this edict from Avignon was widely obeyed (at least to the extent that dancing henceforth took place outside the church), Avignon's writ did not run everywhere. I believe that I am correct in saying that in Seville the choristers still do a castanet dance round the lectern three times a year: and I find it difficult to believe that that has any Christian significance in fact, although it may well have acquired a theoretical one.

The odd thing about these Welsh carol singers was that they sang genuine Christmas carols even though it was New Year's Day and Christmas well past—and did not think that they were doing anything in the least strange. They were particularly fond of "I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing By" and "Good King Wenceslas" and "Noel," and I remember to this day (though I regret to say that I do not know the name of the carol) one particular verse:

> God bless the master of this house,
> And bless the mistress too,
> And all the little children
> That round the table go.

I used to think that that was awfully nice of them—to think of us children.

Although the children in that part of Wales in those days did not go carol-singing, they went round the houses all the same, wishing all and sundry "Blwyddyn Newydd dda" ("a Happy New Year") and, in return, they received pennies. I was not allowed to join in this New Year's Day procession. My mother did not think it would be proper for me to do so. She never said so: she just said that I did not need pennies, which was very far from the truth. I needed them all right. There was another thing about those Welsh Christmasses which was different: Christmas boxes. For one thing, so far as I can remember, there was never any question of "tipping" anybody for services rendered during the past year: for another, the shops gave Christmas boxes to their customers.

I suppose that I cannot, after this length of time, be quite sure about "tipping." But I cannot remember ever seeing anybody given money at Christmas. People did come to the house and were given presents, and I think that the presents were nearly always of food. At least, I remember that the postman always got a brace of pheasants: I have a very clear picture of the postman and his pheasants.

I am in no doubt about the Christmas boxes from the shops. It was not just a matter of calendars and almanacks and blotters; these were real Christmas gifts. The shops were a long way away, and there was no question of delivery. We would go into the town to do our Christmas shopping, and always when the goods were packed into the trap there would be something extra: a canister of tea from this shop, a bottle of sweets from that, a bottle of wine from another, and so on. Even the little village shop had its Christmas box for customers. The smallest shop would have been ashamed not to make some small gift at Christmas. It was not just a question of pride: it was not just a matter of cementing business relationships. These were gifts between members of a society which had, in those days, little or no outside interests.

It has stopped now, and so has the New Year's Day carol-singing in the chill, windy, darkness of early morning. I do not think that the carol-singing survived the First World War anywhere in Wales: certainly it did not in that part. I suspect that it was also the First World War that put an end to the old, and much appreciated, Christmas box. It broke the bonds that held together the old society. The greater ease of communication enabled people to spread their custom over a greater number of shops and in different places. This meant that the customer never really got to know the shopkeeper nor the shopkeeper the customer; that the exchange became purely a business matter between shopkeeper and client rather than the old one of business with gossip which used to take place between people who knew each other, and everyone else in the neighbourhood. Ease of travel would have been quite sufficient to put an end to this, let alone any other economic considerations. Something very valuable went from rural society when the old-fashioned Christmas box, the gift, disappeared to be succeeded by the tip.

The children's calennig (pennies) on New Year's Day lingered longer, and for all I know (though I doubt it) may still survive in a few of the more isolated districts of central Wales. I do not think that carol-singing in the English manner ever became popular in Welsh Wales, though it was accepted in the anglicised districts. Carol-singing has, as I learnt at quite an early age, an aura of respectability about it.

I was never allowed to join the calennig tour, for it was not considered proper. It was simply begging. No attempt, however, was made to stop me from joining the carol-singing expeditions when we came to England. These carol-singing expeditions were considered quite proper. Nice children took part in them. Actually, I am quite sure that the "nice" part never occurred to my mother: she just did not consider carol-singing as begging. She thought that we gave some return for the money, perhaps even some pleasure. She did not realise that our carol-singing was barefaced robbery.

Not that I ever sang. I have no voice at all. This was realised by my companions at our first (and only) "rehearsal," and I was delegated the task of rapping on the door and holding out the little bag for the coppers, for it was thought by our leader (now a prominent politician) that I had a winning smile. One expedition was sufficient to convince him that he had misjudged my smile, and thereafter I held the light. Indeed, thereafter I was a member of the party only because I refused to leave it. I needed the pennies.

Now even the carol-singing parties are dying out. Last year we had only two small children on the doorstep and they sang only two or three lines of "Hark, the Herald Angels" before collapsing into giggles. Over the whole Christmas period our only carols (other than the church service) were provided by the Salvation Army. In another year I do not think that there will be any carol-singing expeditions by children in need of coppers. For this the war cannot be blamed: carol-singing survived the war comfortably enough. Nor does it mean that children are no longer anxious to pick up the odd penny or two. Carol-singing is a victim of the rise in the standard of living, and in particular of the "telly." No child is going to stand on a draughty doorstep for a copper or two when he could be looking at the "telly." Television gets blamed for many things. We may be grateful to it for this. Now we can watch in peace.

CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS-TIME: *Left*—In St. Laurence Churchyard, at Catford, near London, a robed choir sings carols under the illuminated tree. Carol services are held by tradition in the churchyard. *Right*—Members of the Young Farmers' Club of Ebernoe, near Petworth, in Sussex, sing in aid of various charities outside The Swan at Northchapel. The club covered four villages in the area and claimed they did not miss a single house. The carollers' ages ranged from fourteen to sixteen.

ENGINE TESTS FOR A NEW AIRLINER: On the Brooklands airfield at Weybridge, the Vickers-Armstrongs' Vanguard turbo-prop airliner undergoes ground tests. Part of the tail fin has been removed to facilitate movement in and out of the hangar. It was expected that the 60-ton airliner would make its maiden flight just before Christmas. The airliner is not a prototype but a production aircraft built to the specifications of British European Airways. Forty Vanguards have been ordered, twenty by B.E.A. and twenty by Trans-Canada Air Lines. Deliveries to B.E.A. will begin in 1960 and to T.C.A. later in the year. The Vanguard has a large double-bubble fuselage, so that 139 people could be seated in an economy-class configuration. A freight hold occupies 1,360 cub. ft. of the lower deck. It is claimed that this will enable Vanguards to be operated with great economy which could mean cutting fares by a half in this country.

FROM THE REAR: The smooth lines of the fuselage and tail assembly, and the outlets of the four Rolls-Royce Tyne engines, can be clearly seen. The Vanguard has a wingspan of over 118 ft., and a fuselage length of 122 ft. The maximum gross weight of the aircraft is 141,000 lb.

FIRST OF THE VANGUARDS

The Vickers-Armstrongs' Turbo-prop Airliner Undergoes Engine Tests Before its Maiden Flight

AT THE CONTROLS: Mr. G. R. Bryce, chief test pilot of Vickers-Armstrongs, is seated before the complicated instrumentation panels in the Vanguard's cockpit. It was planned he should make the initial flight from Brooklands to the company's airfield at Wisley, in Surrey.

ON THE GROUND: The pilot has an all-round view on landing and take-off. The flight certification programme, starting in January, will involve the first five aircraft off the production line which will spend 1,600 hours in the air.

AN ANCIENT CITY OF ISRAEL

Excavations on a Site in the Negev Yield Important Finds

THE RUINS OF A STRONGHOLD IN THE DESERT : The archway and its surrounding walls are part of the remains which have been excavated at Advat, now in the Negev of Israel. Advat was a city originally built in the second century B.C. by the Nabateans as a commercial centre. The fortress is of later date, the sixth century A.D.

A REMINDER OF THE GREEK INFLUENCE: The inscription is a the top of a marble screen at Avdat. Archæologis from the Hebrew University have recently unearthed great many valuable discoveries in the Nabatean cit

AN IMPORTANT FIND: The gold necklace with i pendant ornaments was unearthed in dump at Avdat. The Nabateans had a ve high standard of craftsmanship as jeweller

A CARVED LINTEL WITH AN INSCRIPTION : It was probably a comparatively late addition to Avdat. The Nabateans established themselves first of all in the famous stronghold of Petra. From there they expanded to the north and the south, being businessmen who controlled the vital commercial route from the Gulf of Eilat to Gaza. Avdat was a staging point.

AN INGENIOUS LIGHTING DEVICE: A lamp is i the shape of a head. The tongue hangi from the mouth formed the wick-holde

POLITICALLY the Middle East is too often an area for trouble-makers. But from the archæological point of view it continues to be a most rewarding and happy hunting-ground. Almost every country has so far yielded only a small part of the treasure buried beneath its sandy soil. In Israel, for example, it is believed that for all the great discoveries made to date, much of the historic past remains to be dug up.

What is described as a "most exciting" excavation is being carried out on the site of the ancient city of Avdat, in the Negev, near Beersheba. Under the direction of Professor Michael Avi-Yona, archæologists of the Hebrew University have recently uncovered a number of important new finds relating to the Nabatean civilisation which flourished there from the second century B.C. to the seventh century A.D. The Nabateans were an Arab people—according to some authorities they were closely akin to the Edomites—and they originally had their chief community in the famous city of Petra, the ruins of which are in modern Jordan. The inhabitants were keen businessmen, and through the years they gradually spread themselves to the north and to the south.

From India they imported goods such as spices and rugs along the Red Sea and up the Gulf of Eilat. From there the merchandise was carried overland to Gaza, where again it was loaded into ships for transit to ports in all parts of the Mediterranean. Along the land route from the Red Sea to Gaza, a number of cities were established where the caravans could rest and obtain food and water. One of these centres was Avdat, lying at the junction of two roads, one from Petra, the other from the Gulf of Eilat. North-west from Avdat the route continued to Gaza.

The history of the Nabateans and of Avdat can be roughly divided into two periods—Pagan and Christian. They began as an independent people and one of the tenets of their economic policy was to keep on good terms with the Jews. The Dead Sea was a profitable sideline for the income of Avdat, asphalt being transported from it to Egypt, where it was apparently used in the making of mummies. During the Maccabean Wars, Jewish women and children were given refuge in the Nabatean cities. An inscription on a marble column unearthed at Avdat mentions a famous ruler named Hartat, who seems at one time to have led an army and intervened in the war in Judea. But when the Roman eagles arrived in Palestine, both Jews and Nabateans soon came into the orbit of Rome.

Discoveries made on the site at Avdat indicate that the town continued to thrive and was an important religious centre. Fragments of rare eggshell pottery foun in a rubbish-dump are extremely thin in texture, and finel painted. This is evidence of a high standard of ski among the ancient craftsmen. Another curious object a winged figure with a head of bronze. It is thought tha such devices might have been attached to the corners o stone tables or other furniture to prevent them bein chipped or damaged.

During the childhood of Christ, the city was the res dence of the Nabatean King, Obodas. For some unknow reason he was deified. A Greek inscription confers "blessing on all the worshippers of Obodas." Inscrip tions are sometimes in Greek and sometimes in Aramai the language current at that time over most of Palestin The Nabatean gods, too, were of mixed origins. Th pendant of a necklace, also found in the valuable rubbish dump, bears a nude figure of the goddess Astarte dryin her hair. This idea was presumably taken from the Grec carvings of Aphrodite, who was frequently depicte drying her hair on emerging from the sea. Bronze figurine with images of the Latin Venus have come to ligh As well as these goddesses, the Nabateans worshipped deity called Dushara, who was known as the "Arab god."

AN ADDITION FROM CHRISTIAN TIMES: The apse, floor and bases of the pillars were part of the nave of a church, one of two Christian places of worship which were added to Avdat in the sixth or seventh centuries A.D. The religious history of the Nabateans who lived there was a progression from Græco-Egyptian gods and goddesses such as Aphrodite and Astarte to Christianity. During the Maccabean wars of the second century B.C. the Nabateans were very sympathetic to the Jews.

AN ORNAMENT FROM ANCIENT AVDAT: The figurine has a hole driven through each wing. Such objects as this may have been attached to corners of furniture.

About the fifth century A.D. the people were converted to Christianity as a result of the missionary endeavours of monks from Gaza. Workers digging in the sandy soil have revealed something of the shape of Avdat about 100 years later. It consisted of a fortress in the Byzantine style, to which two churches were attached. Nearby the remains of a bath have been discovered, with a system of flues for heating and a series of domes on its roof. The stronghold was on high ground.

It is probable that most of the inhabitants of Avdat lived in the valley below, earning their livelihood from tilling the soil or tending their flocks. They seem to have lost their ancestors' commercial acumen and become a peaceful agrarian people. But there was always the danger of raids from the fierce Beduins. At the first sound of the alarm, the valley-dwellers assembled their families, their flocks and their chattels and took them up a series of stairs to the safety of the fortress above.

The sixth-century stronghold is now being excavated as part of the project of the Commission for Landscape Development of Antiquities to make such sites a tourist attraction. A considerable grant has been awarded to the Commission from American funds which have accumulated in Israel from the sale of American books there.

A MEANS OF ESCAPE TO SAFETY FOR INHABITANTS THREATENED BY DANGER: The steps led to the sixth-century fortress of Avdat constructed in the Byzantine style. Many of the inhabitants lived on the land in the valley below the stronghold. At the approach of danger from raiding Arabs they would withdraw up the steps to the fortress.

ALPINE TUNNEL

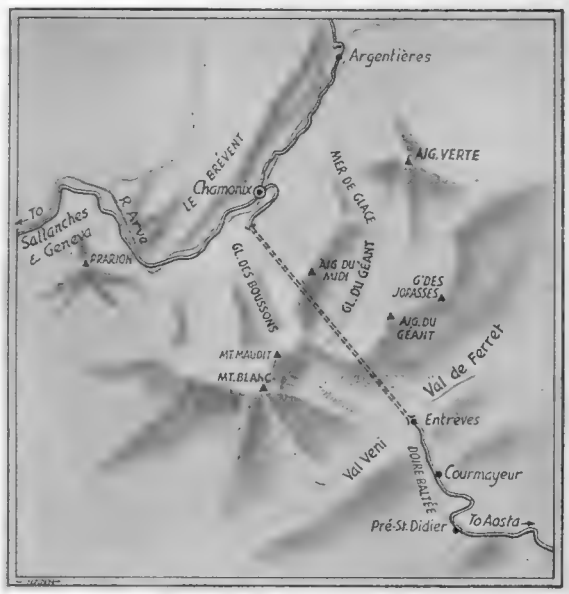
Work Begins on the Ambitious Road Tunnel Under Mont Blanc

After being discussed and argued for a period of ten years, the road tunnel scheme for Mont Blanc is finally coming into being. Since the ratification in the French National Assembly the concrete plans for such an undertaking have involved a great amount of time expended in reaching agreement with the bodies and individuals affected by its being built. Now, however, the manual work of drilling the tunnel has been started at the openings in France and in Italy.

It has been estimated that the total cost of the Mont Blanc project will be in the region of £9,000,000. Of this France is expected to contribute £5,000,000 and Italy about £3,300,000. The remaining £700,000 is expected from the canton of Geneva. The plans provide for a tunnel about 7½ miles in length, running from the French *massif* just above the hamlet of Pèlerins, near Chamonix, at a height of nearly 3,950 ft., to an opening on the Italian side 580 ft. higher up. The Italian opening will be above the village of Entrèves, lying at the foot of the Ferret Valley and at the entrance to the Valley of Aosta.

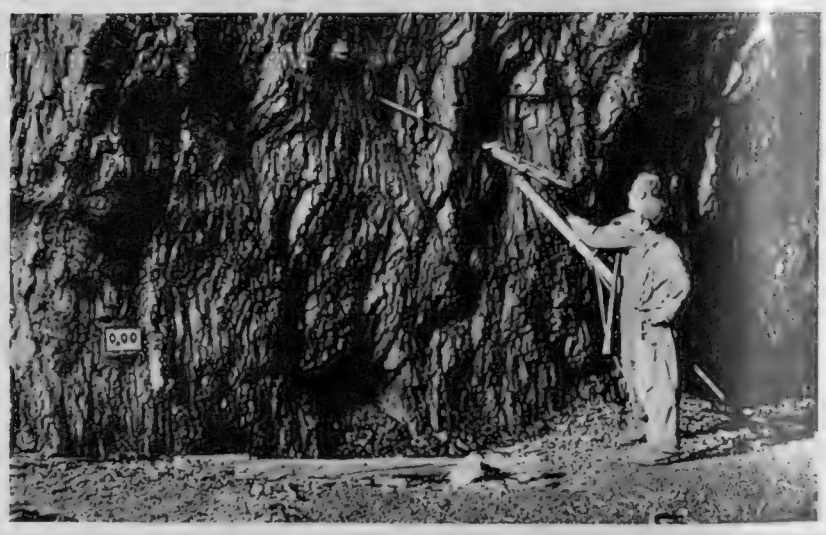
Inside the tunnel the roadway will have a width of 23 ft. and will be bordered on one side by a pavement just over 2½ ft. wide. A thick curb will run along the opposite side. At approximately every 50 yards there will be lay-by recesses, allowing vehicles to pull off the roadway without disturbing the traffic stream. In addition, garages will be constructed alternately on the right and the left every 550 yards along the length of the tunnel, which has been designed to cope with an hourly traffic flow of about 100 vehicles proceeding at a maximum speed of 25 m.p.h. in each direction. In order to keep the air free of exhaust gases a combined ventilation and drainage shaft will be situated underneath the roadway. Geologists do not anticipate that the tunnel's construction should meet with major obstacles in the rock formation.

THE OPENING IN ITALY TO THE TUNNEL UNDER MONT BLANC: Temporary buildings have been erected close to the village of Entrèves to accommodate the men engaged in the work of boring a seven-and-a-half-mile-long tunnel through Mont Blanc, emerging into France near the village of Pèlerins. It is expected to be completed in 1961.



On right—

TUNNELLING UNDER THE ALPS: Workmen test a special rock drill before starting boring operations at a point on the left of picture indicated by three circles. Drilling has started on the French and Italian sides of Mont Blanc.



On left—

THE COURSE OF AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT: The dotted lines indicate the direction the underground road will take. It will pass through various rock formations. At both ends is slate and in the centre is a great mass of granite with slate pockets.

SPLENDOUR WHICH LIES ABOVE THE MONT BLANC TUNNEL: The ice-capped peaks of the summit of Mont Blanc stand out against the skyline. *Right*—The Col de la Brenva is a truly magnificent sweep of glacier in the environs of Mont Blanc.

A MAJOR PHASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE: In order to speed up the work on the bridge over Auckland Harbour, in New Zealand, a complete section of it, mounted upon a base, is floated out towards the piers which will sustain it. The structure, weighing 1,500 tons, is winched into position near piers 2 and 3 (second from right). At high tide the following day the section was to have been floated in and lowered into place. Windy weather, however, caused delay. The procedure was planned to speed up work, making use of the height of the bridge span and high tides. The section is 580 ft. long and the bridge is a mile long. Including approach roads, the cost is to be about £5,000,000, and the date of completion is planned for May next year.

A NEW BRIDGE FOR AUCKLAND HARBOUR

One of the Main Sections is Floated into Position on a Large Pontoon

THE WORK IN PROGRESS: The pontoon and the bridge section are moved towards the bridge itself. *On left*—The section is mounted on a span which is 200 ft. long and is placed on four link barges.

LANDING FACILITIES FOR HELICOPTERS: At the Belmont Works, on the south bank of the River Thames, between Battersea Railway Bridge and Wandsworth Bridge, work is proceeding at a fast rate on London's first Heliport. It is being built by Westland Aircraft Limited, as a private venture, but will be available for the use of all operators and owners of helicopters. The aircraft company is proposing to operate it for a period of seven years, by which time it is expected that a permanent London Heliport will have been provided by the authorities. Despite the fact that it will provide only a temporary solution to the problem of operating helicopters from the Central London area, it will enable valuable operational techniques and the commercial potentialities of the helicopter as applied to such traffic to be gained. When completed, the Heliport will consist of a "T"-shaped landing platform built out over the river, and an adjacent space ashore, with a river frontage of about 200 ft. The platform is being built on reinforced concrete piles supporting a heavily reinforced concrete deck. The landing area, the head of the "T," will be 125 ft. by 50 ft.. The width of the upright of the "T," connecting the landing platform to the shore, will be 60 ft. All approaches will be over the river which provides a straight run between bridges distant about 1,000 ft. downstream and 2,500 ft. upstream from the platform. The Heliport is designed to handle current single-engined and future twin-engined helicopters.

LONDON'S HELIPORT

A Landing Station for Helicopters Takes Shape on the Thames

On right—

PROGRESS ON THE SITE: Entry is by private road from the corner of Lombard and York Roads, and the exit is into York Road. There will be parking space ashore for three helicopters with a fuselage length of 70 ft. and a main rotor diameter of 72 ft., or up to five smaller helicopters.

THE REVOLUTION IN HIRE PURCHASE

By "THE SPHERE" INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HIRE PURCHASE, in the '30's, had the rather dubious reputation of being the way in which poor people bought things they couldn't afford all at once—and fairly often, it was said, couldn't really afford at all. It was linked, in the public mind, with unsavoury stories about high-pressure salesmanship from door to door, persuading housewives to commit themselves to contracts they didn't fully understand, with payment at exhorbitant rates of interest and with repossession of the goods once the purchaser fell behind in his payments, even if he had already paid nearly the whole amount. An Act of Parliament was indeed passed in 1938, sponsored by the late Ellen Wilkinson, to prevent some of these abuses, and to lay down rules of fair dealing for the whole system. That, and an amending act passed to bring it up to date in 1954, have been the only pieces of legislation enacted to regulate this kind of buying on credit—though a large number of statutory orders, during wartime and ever since, have been made from time to time to try to control the volume of it going on in Britain. These were never intended to deal with abuses—though some did have the effect of inducing traders and finance companies to devise some odd variants of hire purchase.

In one form and another the volume of hire purchase in Britain has certainly been growing, but it is only very gradually that it has been able to throw off the social stigma attached to it. The "never-never" label is faintly contemptuous. In a period when changes in incomes and taxation have tended to concentrate extra buying power into the pockets of a rising lower middle-class, hire purchase as their chosen form of buying has encountered some of the social frictions caused by their rise; and in the post-war era, "conspicuous consumption" has, in any case, been subject to puritan official disapproval. This does not imply that the established middle-classes are used to paying for more of their purchases with cash on the nail than the working-classes; but they traditionally use charge accounts, longer credit with their tailors, and bank overdrafts and the like. Until the last war, comparatively few used hire purchase—though many will have used a form of credit that is hardly different, in buying their houses on mortgage.

The statistics alone, however, suggest that in practice this dislike of hire purchase has been eroded along with many other pre-war habits. It is reckoned that about a third of the adult population to-day have hire purchase contracts outstanding, and a much higher proportion of youngish people. About a quarter of the new cars sold are on hire purchase (and one has to remember that this probably represents half of all private owners' purchases, because half of the new cars are bought by business). More than half of the motor-cycles, radio and television, washing-machines and furniture are on consumer hire purchase. This is still a small proportion of our total spending—say about 3 per cent. of all the money we spend in a year—but it represents a substantial debt, to-day spread fairly widely among all classes.

The prejudice against hire purchase was, until recently, not confined to individuals and social classes. The system met exactly the same stand-offishness in the traditional financial circles of the City of London. This was a form of financing—indeed, in a sense of banking—outside the charmed circle, subject to none of the informal but wholly binding "club rules" of the established banking fraternity. Finance companies and retail firms financing their own hire purchase contracts did not always find it easy to raise the money from their bankers—which meant getting it elsewhere, at higher rates which eventually meant higher hire purchase charges.

Suddenly this summer, with the speed of a palace revolution, there came a complete change in these traditional—and official—City attitudes to hire purchase, and, indeed, to consumer credit in general. It came at the moment of official relaxation of Government credit policy, and there is no doubt whatever that it was "given the green light" by the Bank of England and the Treasury. And it was followed later in the autumn by a progressive freeing of controls on the actual volume of hire purchase business that might generate such a wave of buying on credit as Britain has never known.

The banks began, in complete reversal of tradition, by buying their way into the finance companies that provide the credit for a large part of British hire purchase. There are several hundreds of these companies, though about 80 per cent. of the total business is reckoned to be in the hands of the top dozen. As a group the finance companies provide the money for something over half of all the business—i.e., half of the £550,000,000 or so that is at present lent out at any time on all the articles that the British public is buying on hire purchase. This includes a large amount of industrial equipment and the ordinary citizen's cars and washing-machines.

Until the middle of this year the only major bank engaged in the hire purchase business, through ownership of a finance house, was the Commercial Bank of Scotland, which had taken this step in 1954: any other banks thinking of following in its footsteps had been checked by official disapproval. But at the end of July this year, given an official nod, there was an absolute rush of joint-stock banks to acquire large holdings in the biggest of the finance houses. Barclays and its Scottish subsidiary, the British Linen Bank, took shares in the United Dominions Trust; the Westminster and Martins acquired holdings in Mercantile Credit; Lloyds in Bowmaker and, indirectly, in Old's Discount; the National Provincial in North Central Wagon, and the Midland in Forward Trust.

The ordinary prospective buyer on hire purchase might well ask "What difference does this make to me?" Effectively, the answer is that financial limits, at any rate, upon his chances of getting goods on credit have been loosened; the finance companies are able to get credit more freely from their new part-owners, which in the longish run might make for freer competition, possibly with lower charges. (It would perhaps not be cynical to note that this could work the other way, too: if the Chancellor should want to tighten credit throughout the economy at some later date, he might find it easier now that the hire purchase firms have been brought within the charmed circle of traditional banking.) But it soon became evident this move by the banks was only a first step.

For, having bought their way into the big hire purchase companies, the banks then proceeded to compete with them. Lord Monckton of the Midland Bank began it with his new "personal loans," offering up to £500 to his customers, repayable over periods similar to hire purchase contracts and designed to finance just the same sort of purchases—e.g., a car or a foreign holiday, but not in most cases shares or Government bonds. These loans were at higher rates than an ordinary bank overdraft, but the debt was extinguished in the event of death. Moreover, the rates were, in general, slightly below those charged by hire purchase firms, and as pure interest the charges could be set off against tax, which is not allowed in normal hire purchase. For the middle-class man known to his bank manager to be a good risk, the new personal loans had considerable attractions; and the Midland's initiative was rapidly followed by most of the other major banks—though two, Lloyds and the National Provincial, held out on the argument that their customers could have equally convenient, and slightly cheaper, facilities through normal overdraft arrangements.

After a long period of credit restraint, the ordinary consumer is thus being invited to spend freely on credit, in several convenient ways. The last step—ending of all Government controls over the percentage deposit and the term of repayment—has indeed been followed by a flurry of competition to offer the easiest terms. "No deposit" terms have been known in the past on furniture and moderately-priced domestic equipment. Recently, cars have been offered for as little as 1 per cent. down and five years to pay. This, on the face of it, looks imprudent, because if the finance company should have to repossess because of non-payment, it is certain to lose more on selling the car again than the amount originally paid as deposit. But the finance companies fairly blithely argue in reply that their "loss ratio"—i.e., their proportion of bad debts—is to-day at an incredibly low figure; and that even if it should rise a little, the money they might lose will be far outweighed by profits on the extra business they hope to handle.

How much that extra business will turn out to be is anybody's guess. There are two opinions about the effect of turning on the tap of easy credit terms. One group of experts thinks that this will make possible a large and permanent increase in personal spending, and in the proportion of goods bought on hire purchase; but the majority and the official view seems to be that it will merely concentrate forward, into a few months following the relaxation, spending that people would have been likely to do anyway in the course of the next year or so. The following eighteen months will provide a good deal of evidence—which has been largely lacking during the controlled period since the war—about the longer-term effects of freeing hire purchase. But there is little doubt that it is already giving the British economy a short-term fillip—at a time when this is certainly needed.

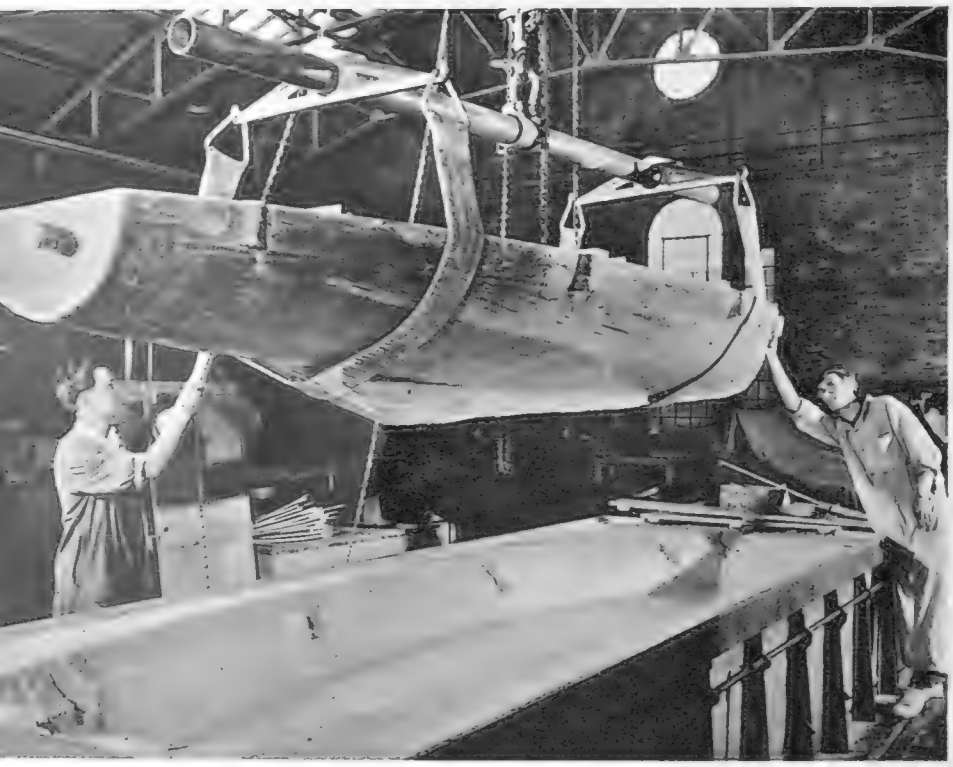
A NEW ENGINEERING SCHOOL AT BRISTOL

In the engineering testing laboratory of the new £1,000,000 engineering school at Bristol University, final adjustments are made to the structural steelwork for a large testing machine. The opening ceremony was performed by the Queen. "I hope that those of you who pursue technical studies will not fail also to benefit from the wider intellectual environment in which you find yourselves here," said Her Majesty. "For, side by side with technological experts, we still need in this country men with extensive interests and well-stocked minds who have the wisdom and judgment to see how best the great advances in the field of scientific discovery can be used for the benefit of mankind." To commemorate her visit the Queen unveiled a tablet inside the building. The construction work began in the autumn of 1950. At the end of the following year the foundation-stone was laid by Sir Winston Churchill, then Prime Minister. Because the school stands on a slope, its foundations had to be driven to 60 ft. to reach solid rock.

CANDLE-MAKING IN SIAM: An operator cuts the wicks of finished candles with a sharp blade. Candles are made in special machines by pouring molten wax into tubular moulds containing the wick. After the moulds have been cooled by water the solidified candles are forced upwards by pistons. Similar production methods are used all over the world in candle factories supplied with the wax by the oil industry. Petroleum waxes are manufactured at oil refineries where the basic material is distilled. Such waxes are used for many purposes.

A CANDLE FACTORY IN LONDON: An operator adjusts lengths of wax taper on one of two large drums in the taper-making room. A sufficient thickness of paraffin wax is built on long lengths of wick by repeated runs through molten wax baths between the drums.

THE MANY VARIED USES OF PETROLEUM WAXES



A WAX MODEL : At the Admiralty Research Station at Gosport, a paraffin wax model of a ship's hull is removed from its mould by an overhead crane. The wax is buoyant, malleable and is easily modified. It can also be melted down and reused. This makes it ideal for the construction of exact, scale models to test experimental shapes.

WAXING PAPER CARTONS: An employee unpacks slabs of paraffin wax for use in a factory making cartons in Newcastle. The basic process for waxing paper is to pass it in a strip through a bath of molten wax and over rollers to remove the excess. About 70 per cent. of petroleum wax for the U.S. home market is used for waxed papers.

Waxes, some of the products of oil refining, are used to-day for many different purposes besides the making of candles. The basic waxy material is distilled from crude oils, or is taken from the "slack wax" obtained in the course of manufacturing lubricating oil. The final waxes are then produced either by "sweating" or by the use of solvents. It was a complicated process to extract the wax until, in 1871, it was noticed that when a block of oily wax was left in the sun it showed white at the top and very yellow underneath. From this a sweating process was devised which, although improved in detail, is still largely used to-day. Although in some countries the major demand for paraffin wax is still for the manufacture of candles and nightlights, in others, particularly in the United States, much is used for moisture-proof papers and cartons for marketing foodstuffs. About 70 per cent. of the petroleum wax for the U.S. home market is used in this way. When only a little wax is wanted on the surface of the paper, the rollers, over which the paper travels during the processing, are heated. This drives the wax into the paper and the product is known as "dry waxed" paper. In the "wet waxing" process the paper is completely immersed in a bath of the molten substance, and then passes through a bath of refrigerated water. This shock-chilling process produces a high gloss finish. Petroleum waxes are also used for the waterproofing of other materials such as wood, leather, fabrics and concrete.

Cheeses are often guarded against loss of moisture by coating the rind. Fruit can also be protected in this way. Most polish compounds are made from waxes and a solvent such as turpentine. Paraffin wax itself gives little gloss to a surface, but it helps to extend the costly vegetable and insect waxes which provide the lustre and to give the paste its proper consistency. Compounds composed of paraffin wax are used in branches of medicine. Substantial quantities of the substance are also used in the rubber and electrical industries. Perhaps the most unusual use is as an aid to stripping chickens and turkeys of their feathers. Dead birds are dipped in a bath of molten wax. After this has solidified, it is scraped off and the feathers come away easily with the wax. The wax is remelted, the feathers removed, and the wax is ready to be used again.

A PRESSURE VESSEL TOWED ACROSS THE IRISH SEA

A GIANT cylinder, 120 ft. long and weighing 50 tons, is raised preparatory to being lowered into the Mersey. It is a pressure vessel, made by the Stockton firm of Ashmore, Benson and Pease for installation at the Whitegate Refinery of the Irish Refining Company. The journey across the Irish Sea to Cork took about two days, the cylinder being towed by the tug *Wrestler*.

STAGES IN THE PROCESS: From the top of the recovery unit can be seen the styrene stripping columns, where the unreacted styrene is removed from the latex. *Right*—In the final stage, in the discharge and drying section, 80-lb. bales of rubber are wrapped in polythene covers on a conveyor system ready to be sent as intermediate raw material to the rubber manufacturers.

MAKING SYNTHETIC RUBBER: At The International Synthetic Rubber Co.'s plant at Hythe, in Hampshire, one of the employees carries out a shaker-screen operation during the washing of the coagulated rubber. *Left*—In the recovery unit, parts of the raw materials, butadiene and styrene, which have remained unused in the manufacture of the latex, are recovered.

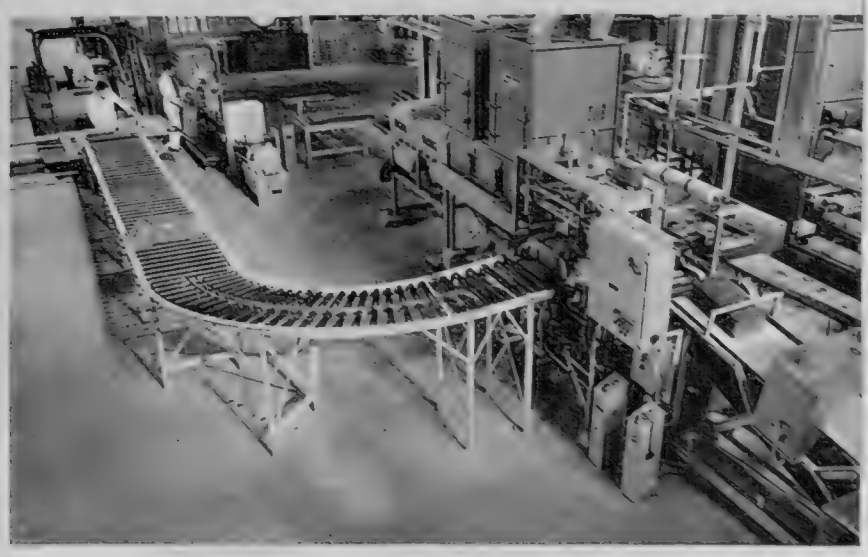
BRITAIN'S SYNTHETIC RUBBER PLANT

Built at the cost of £6,000,000, the new plant of The International Synthetic Rubber Co. Ltd., at Hythe, on Southampton Water, is Britain's first venture into the bulk manufacture of general-purpose synthetic rubber. With a capacity of up to 70,000 tons, it is claimed to make Britain independent of overseas sources of the material. In addition, considerable quantities may be exported. The plant produces a type of synthetic rubber known as Styrene-Butadiene Rubber, from the names of the main ingredients.

Three parts of butadiene to one part of styrene are used. The former is obtained from the Fawley Refinery of the Esso Petroleum Co., being piped between the two installations, which are only 1¾ miles apart. Styrene is supplied by Forth Chemicals at Grangemouth and Shell at Partington. Occupying a 54-acre site and with installations covering 280,000 sq. ft., the I.S.R. plant was built in sixteen months. Production first started in March of this year and reached full output in July. The equity capital for I.S.R. was subscribed by the U.K. Tyre Companies.

A large proportion of synthetic rubber is used in the manufacture of all motor-car tyres nowadays. It has a smaller place in the manufacture of commercial vehicle tyres. As a tyre material, synthetic rubber is superior to the natural substance in resistance to abrasion but is slightly inferior in resilience. In Great Britain, the share of all types of synthetic in the total consumption of rubber is 26 per cent.; in the United States the proportion is much higher —64 per cent. One of the reasons for this is the higher ratio of passenger to commercial tyres in the States.

The designing, installation and commissioning of the plant at Hythe was carried out by an American firm, the Blaw-Knox Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Other work was carried out by Matthew Hall and Company Ltd., and John Laing. It embodies a number of exclusive features and is probably the most modern of its kind in the world. The plant operates continuously day and night, 365 days a year, insurance against interruption of flow being provided by the duplication of all units liable to break down.



DECORATIONS IN LONDON'S PICCADILLY: At Simpson's, a mass of electric light bulbs and other decorative materials provide an attractive display close to Piccadilly Circus. This year again the Christmas decorations in London's shopping centres are on an elaborate scale and many sightseers, as well as shoppers, have been making special journeys to see them. As the festival approaches, more and more decorated Christmas trees appear outside churches, shops and other buildings to add further colour to the scene.

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY TO NEW YORK: The season opened along Fifth Avenue when Lord and Taylor's "Tree of Light" was switched on in mid-November. The tree, which can be seen for some distance along the Avenue, is said to be New York's largest electrical Christmas display.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Decorations and Preparations in Several Countries

On right—

FELLING THE CHRISTMAS TREE FOR TRAFALGAR SQUARE: In the Maridalen Forest, near Oslo, a new tree is felled to take the place of the original tree which had been damaged while in transit from Norway to London. The tree, which is the annual gift from Oslo to London, stands in Trafalgar Square until Twelfth Night. The illuminations were due to be switched on last Wednesday by the Norwegian Chargé d'Affaires in the presence of the Mayor of Westminster. During the days before Christmas several choirs will gather at the foot of the tree to sing carols. This is the twelfth successive year that a tree has been sent from Norway. In return the Mayor of Westminster is sending 100 English rose bushes to be planted in Oslo's public gardens.

TURKEY-TIME: Lord John Manners and the farm by Lord John and his brother, the Duke of Belvoir Castle, which is close to Grantham. Last year they had 8,000. The farm

'A GIFT FOR LONDON'S HANOVER SQUARE : The Christmas tree has come from Denmark and has been presented to the Hanover Square Gardens Committee by Courtaulds/Celanese, whose marketing headquarters are in the Square. It is forty years old, is 63 ft. high and comes from the Grib Forest, in Zeeland, The 400 lights on the tree were switched on earlier this month by the Vice-Consul of the Royal Danish Consulate.

ATTRACTING THE CHILDREN IN OXFORD STREET : The central display over the entrance to Selfridge's store in London's Oxford Street invites the children to "Come to Hoopy's Circus" on the first floor, where they can also meet Father Christmas and Uncle Holly. Toyland, another attraction, is on the third floor of the store.

anager are seen inspecting the Belvoir Turkey Farm which is owned utland. It is on 100 acres of the estate near the Duke's home, his year they are producing 18,000 turkeys for the Christmas market. arted when Lord John Manners bought six turkeys as pets.

FAIRYLAND IN REGENT STREET : Giant lanterns, 7 ft. high and covered with multi-coloured stars, form part of the decorations in the famous thoroughfare. Chains of fairy-lights are also included in the decorations. Some 7,000 ft. of cable, with lamps at 1 ft. intervals, has been used. Outside some stores there are also Christmas trees. The main decorations have been arranged by the Regent Street Association Ltd.

The World of Books

BRITISH PLUCK AND TENACITY

A Wartime Adventure on the African Coast; An Inquiry into the History of Doctors; More Reminiscences from Dornford Yates; A New Novel by A. J. Cronin and Other Fiction

ONE of the oddest and yet the least known of sea and land adventures during the war came about in 1942, late in November, when an English freighter of some 13,000 tons with twenty-one passengers, a ship's company of eighty-five and many thousands of pounds' worth of munitions went ashore on the most dreaded coastline of Africa. These stretching miles of shifting sand dunes and desert are cold by night and unbearably hot by day. Not even grass will grow there and although the land is diamond-bearing, there is no need to guard it, so intolerable, even impossible, are the living conditions.

Yet the survivors landed there, rigged up some sort of shelter and contrived to stay not only alive but sane, while by sea, by land and by air, men fought to rescue them. Their story is not only one of courage but of fantastic determination, obstinate strength and limitless sweat and drive. Mr. Lyman Anson has told it in a breezy conversational style, basing it on the factual account gathered from interviews and official records by Mr. John Marsh, a Cape Town journalist who, in 1944, recorded the details of an extraordinary shipwreck and an even more amazing rescue. SKELETON COAST (Hodder and Stoughton. 16s.) comes to the reading public long after the events it narrates, but such a story of British pluck and tenacity is never too late to appreciate.

Mr. E. S. Turner is as versatile an inquirer into our social history as can be imagined and has already given us volumes on advertising, on the British officer, on courting and on penny dreadfuls. He has now turned his attention to the history of medical men, and in CALL THE DOCTOR (Michael Joseph. 21s.) has written a lively, absorbing book, crammed with facts and foibles as they relate to great men, to quacks and medical students, from the fourteenth century to our own days. In the main this is a record of the rise of the general practitioner and not of those doctors who, as the author points out, may never be seen at a patient's bedside but spend their time with test-tubes, brief cases, in forensic medicine or on expeditions to the Poles. It is a truism that books about doctors are sure of success; this one, I would wager, is absolutely certain of it.

Mr. Dornford Yates, held in affectionate esteem for many, many years as a writer of the most elegant and amusing fiction, has written a further volume of reminiscences, B-BERRY AND I LOOK BACK (Ward Lock. 15s.). Here he expresses his distaste for affairs as they are in England to-day, his fastidious recoil from what he sees as the disasters of the Welfare State, and the happiness of his golden memories with the characters of his earlier stories. Here, too, Mr. Yates gives a full rein to nostalgia and writes of England, of practice at the Bar, of gentle oddities, of early books and primers and of London scenes with a familiar ease. Many of his pages are funny, as one expected, and nearly all are kindly. A likeable book for all its prejudice.

THE SNOB SPOTTER'S GUIDE (Weidenfeld and Nicolson. 21s.) has been translated from the French, where necessary, by several willing hands and brains and was originally a *Dictionnaire du Snobbisme*. Its editor and illustrator on both sides of the Channel is M. Philippe Jullian, and its contributors include such authorities as Lady Aberconway; Loelia, Duchess of Westminster; Cecil Beaton and Mr. Hamish Erskine, who was also one of the translators and is known for the facility of his French and the excellence of his "joke" French. The idea is an amusing one and the book an obvious choice for a short list of acquaintances.

The first volume of THE MEMOIRS OF CASANOVA—VENETIAN YEARS (Elek-Putnam. 30s.) has now appeared in a translation by Mr. Arthur Machen, which, we are told, is complete and unabridged. The period covered by this long and slightly unwieldy book (which I was interested to see had been printed in the United States) is that from Casanova's birth to his young manhood. Many of the exploits with which one automatically links Casanova's name are described here but with no more relish than his accounts of essays at other forms of activity for, during this time, it seems that he was successively a traveller to Rome, Corfu and Constantinople, a student of medicine, a doctor of law, secretary to a distinguished cardinal, a soldier of a sort and finally a violinist. One way or another, it must always be Casanova's vitality which appeals most strongly to a reader's imagination. An odd book, often prolix, sometimes rewarding and filled from cover to cover with Casanova's delight in himself, his complacence and his irrepressible self-interest.

SOLITAIRE (Heinemann. 13s.) would be a far more satisfying novel if Miss Kay Dick had not had the unfortunate idea of reporting from time to time on the work in progress; breaking the thread of the reader's interest by explaining just how the writing of the book is coming along. This may be helpful for a writer of a possible monograph on Kay Dick, Her Technique and Her Talent, but for many people it will only be a tiresome interruption. For the rest, this is a slight, perceptive and really charming novel about four individuals in Paris: a Frenchman, his English ex-wife, his young son and the Englishwoman who observes them, comes to love at least two of them, and narrates their story of sensibilities made highly articulate.

AT THE EXHIBITION OF HIS OWN WORKS: Mr. Berkeley Sutcliffe shows Miss Wendy Hiller, the actress, some of his paintings at the Private View at the Arthur Jeffress Gallery, 28, Davies Street, London. Entitled "An Eighteenth Century Prospect," the exhibition will remain open until January 2. It consists of two groups of water-colours, one of illustrations to fairy-tales and the other of scenes from the Vienna Riding School.

Dr. A. J. Cronin has returned to England—as far, that is to say, as the setting of his new novel is concerned. THE NORTHERN LIGHT (Gollancz. 15s.) is about a newspaper in a north-eastern, as it might be a Yorkshire town, and about its proprietor who fights to continue the tradition of the paper's independence against all the lures, bribes, rich offers and skulduggery of a big Press combine. The issues here are clear-cut and, just as traditionally, the reader will take the side of the small owner against the suggestion of overriding Press Lordshippery. There may be a doubt, of course, in the reader's mind about the novel's hero; whether he is not a tiny bit too good to be true and the combine a little too bad, but Dr. Cronin has the gift of story-telling and these reflections are likely to be brushed aside as one hurries along to see what happens on the next page.

The next two novels have exotic backgrounds, on Trinidad and one the coast of British Guiana. TURN AGAIN TIGER (Macgibbon and Kee. 15s.) is by th Indian writer, Mr. Samuel Selvon, whose earlier boo about West Indians in London, *A Brighter Sun*, was suc a touching and honest piece of work. The present stor is a sequel to that and shows the same simple, attractiv hero among a group of Trinidad characters, Negro Chinese or English, and shows him, it is fair to say, a less advantage than before. But when Mr. Selvon i writing about the scene itself and returns to his lyrica manner he is at his best and a really delightful writer.

THE WILD COAST (Secker and Warburg. 16s.) i Mr. Jan Carew's straightforward and fairly sensationa story about a Dutch-Creole boy growing up to manhoo in the jungle of the Courentyne coast, looked after mor or less by the old Negress who is his guardian and experi menting with first love and first authority. This novel i full of good stuff and a little not so good; fiercely alive violent and compellingly readable.

OF LESSER RENOWN (Cassell. 15s.) is a story o the Burma campaign, founded on fact and persona experience but a piece of imaginative story-telling, all th same. Mr. Laurie Andrews has written about a group o English soldiers, drafted from their camp in India t join other British forces on the Arakan front where th Japs are forcing a retreat. Separated from the rest of th force and just about as green as their jungle-dyed uniforms they set off through the jungle, which is largely held b the enemy, to rejoin their own force which they can trac by the artillery fire. As they advance painfully, the British are retreating before them and their objective seems a impossible one.

The American novel that I have read this week i Doris Betts' TALL HOUSES IN WINTER (Cassell. 18s. which, very briefly, could be said to be a story of death and rebirth. The setting is a town in North Carolina, a self-respecting community that has less to do with th Tobacco Road set-up than with any ordinary rural plac with an overgrown civic consciousness. A sensitive, un happy but reasonably worldly man comes back to revisi his home there, a kind of sentimental journey under a doctor's sentence of death. He finds an old friend an a new one, a number of hostile characters and a chil who might be, and probably is, his own. Minutely followed through every emotional occasion, including a bad hang over, the hero emerges as a likeable, fairly weak, fairly honest fellow. The result is a serious novel which prove the author to be a person of exquisite perception with a great understanding of childhood's solitude.

CHERE AMIE (Heinemann. 16s.) is an historica novel which is essentially a love-story and one that ca be substantiated by such records as remain. Marie Man cini was the niece of Cardinal Mazarin and a mere gir when Louis XIV met her and became so enamoured o her that he wanted her for his Queen. Beautiful she was and with an innate dignity, but she was not of Roya blood and for the *Roi Soleil* the position was impossible She retired from Court with Louis' promise of everlasting friendship, married an Italian nobleman and after a stormy unhappy life, found that the King would vindicate his promise. Mlle Gerty Colin has written of this romance

COMMERCE RAIDER OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The Exploits of the "Alabama"

When, in 1861, the southern states of North America seceded, setting up a separate government, the British Government issued a proclamation of neutrality in the ensuing struggle and the Confederates were recognised as belligerents. In June of the following year the vessel "No. 290," later to be known as the *Alabama*, was under construction at Laird's of Birkenhead. She was obviously intended for a man-of-war, and the United States Consul at Liverpool left the British Government in no doubt as to her character. The law officers of the Crown advised that there were sufficient grounds for detention, but somehow or other "No. 290" put out to sea and, after two days spent off Anglesey when she, might easily have been detained, made for the Azores, where she received her armament. There Captain Raphael Semmes took command of the *Alabama* under a commission from the Confederate Government. After that it was all plain sailing with the *Alabama* causing destruction in every part of the world, ranging the oceans from Brazil to Borneo and inflicting the most tremendous losses on United States shipping, always appearing to be a move ahead of the pursuing U.S. cruisers. In THE ALABAMA INCIDENT (William Kimber. 21s.) Kenneth Poolman, who has already recounted the story of *Kelly* and *Ark Royal*, describes the career of this greatest of all commerce raiders with accuracy and with a vivid sense of those urgent times when the new republic of Jefferson Davies was fighting for its life. This was a mighty effort for a doomed cause, and the last hours of the *Alabama*, when she was trapped in the English Channel by the U.S.S. *Kearsage*, and forced to give battle, show the mettle of captain and men, not to mention the excellence of her own equipping in a British yard.

It seems to be the fashion of the times to describe in detail the activities of various individual arms of the Royal Navy. Some readers may feel that they make disjointed reading, for what the gunboats, the frigates, the destroyers, the cruisers and the battleships may do should surely be part of a tactical pattern and a grand strategical design. Shorn of their context the activities of individual types of ships are less easy to appreciate. Even so Cecil Hampshire's ARMED WITH STINGS (William Kimber. 21s.) tells the story of a gunboat flotilla that is at once exciting and inspiring. His subject is the "Insect Class" which was designed originally to serve in the Danube in the First World War, but for the next thirty years fought almost non-stop the whole world round. Unlike other British warships the Insects were never paid-off, and there were still seven of them on active service when World War II broke out. They played a large part in the ebb and flow of the Eighth Army when the desert campaign was in progress, and when *Tarantula*, the last of her class, was scrapped in 1946 it was the end of a glorious era. Mr. Hampshire tells his story well, and with an admirable sense of the dramatic and of the seafaring tradition.

Joe Richards' "one man in a boat story" PRINCESS-NEW YORK (Hollis and Carter. 21s.) belongs to a long line of such books, but it is full of satisfactions for both author and reader. Joe, a marine artist, wanted to get away from it all. He dreamt his own small-boat dream and won fulfilment, and what more could he or anyone else ask beyond the fact that, in writing about it, he should do so vividly and well. This he has done. Joe bought *Princess* in a boatyard in Flushing, Long Island, and his affair with her, he says, became a marriage of convenience. He married her for money (his money), and spent every penny on renewing her rotten planks.

ROYALTIES GALORE

Since the mid-Victorian reign, republicanism in Britain has never been more than the whisper of a few cranks, and among those cranks I cannot believe there was ever a publisher or a biographer-in-search-of-a-subject. What Royalties have meant to these depressed types it would be hard to assess. The trivia of Court life are as safe a bet as any in the trade. In THE THY PRINCESS (Evans. 30s.) David Duff has given us a painstaking, cosy, repetitive biography of Princess Henry of Battenberg, Victoria's youngest and favourite daughter and companion, mother of Queen Ena of Spain. From the nursery, she lived a life of silken servitude, unrelieved by incident except when she was eye-witness of two assassination attempts. Marriage brought her no relief, and if Prince Henry had had the quick temper of the Duke of Teck, she might well have witnessed a third attempt. For "cosy" is perhaps the wrong adjective when one conjures up the icy chill of the corridors of Osborne, Balmoral and Windsor, where their lives were passed while the terrifying old Queen reigned. To judge by the bibliography and appendices, as by the serious handling of the theme, perhaps Mr. Duff expended more labour than his subject's career warranted. For all too much of the book is made up of the repetition of trivial happenings. But his theme is sure to please and his illustrations are a delight even to the sophisticated. It must be added that Princess Beatrice had useful gifts and was praised for her tact and discretion by the statesmen who suffered under her mother's tyranny. She died at a great age in 1944, the last survivor of Albert's and Victoria's family whose doings have filled libraries.

John Gore

(*Continued from previous page*)

With an appropriate sentiment and the translation from the French has been made by Claire Delavenay.

Nothing could be a greater contrast to the last novel than Mr. Robert Neill's SONG OF SUNRISE (Hutchinson. 15s.), which is a story of a Lancashire town 120 years ago, when cotton masters and workers were forcibly faced with the advent of mechanical power and when another provincial newspaper, this time the *Northern Star*, started on its career. Well-documented and, even better from most points of view, a really exciting tale.

SPECULATION MISS (Hamish Hamilton. 16s.) is a good, provocative title for a really admirable novel about a girl who, 150 years ago, sets out from Dover to India with only her looks, her native wit and her family's reliance on her making an advantageous marriage, to support her. At that time, a period of which Miss Francesca Marton must know as much as anyone now living and writing, a girl's chances of a good marriage were very much circumscribed and it was not thought odd or heartless to despatch her alone to India where she might have a chance of marrying a man in the East India Company. This is the story of a voyage between the Downs and Bombay in such circumstances; vivid, thrilling, utterly credible and a good deal more uncomfortable than any exigency of the Welfare State!

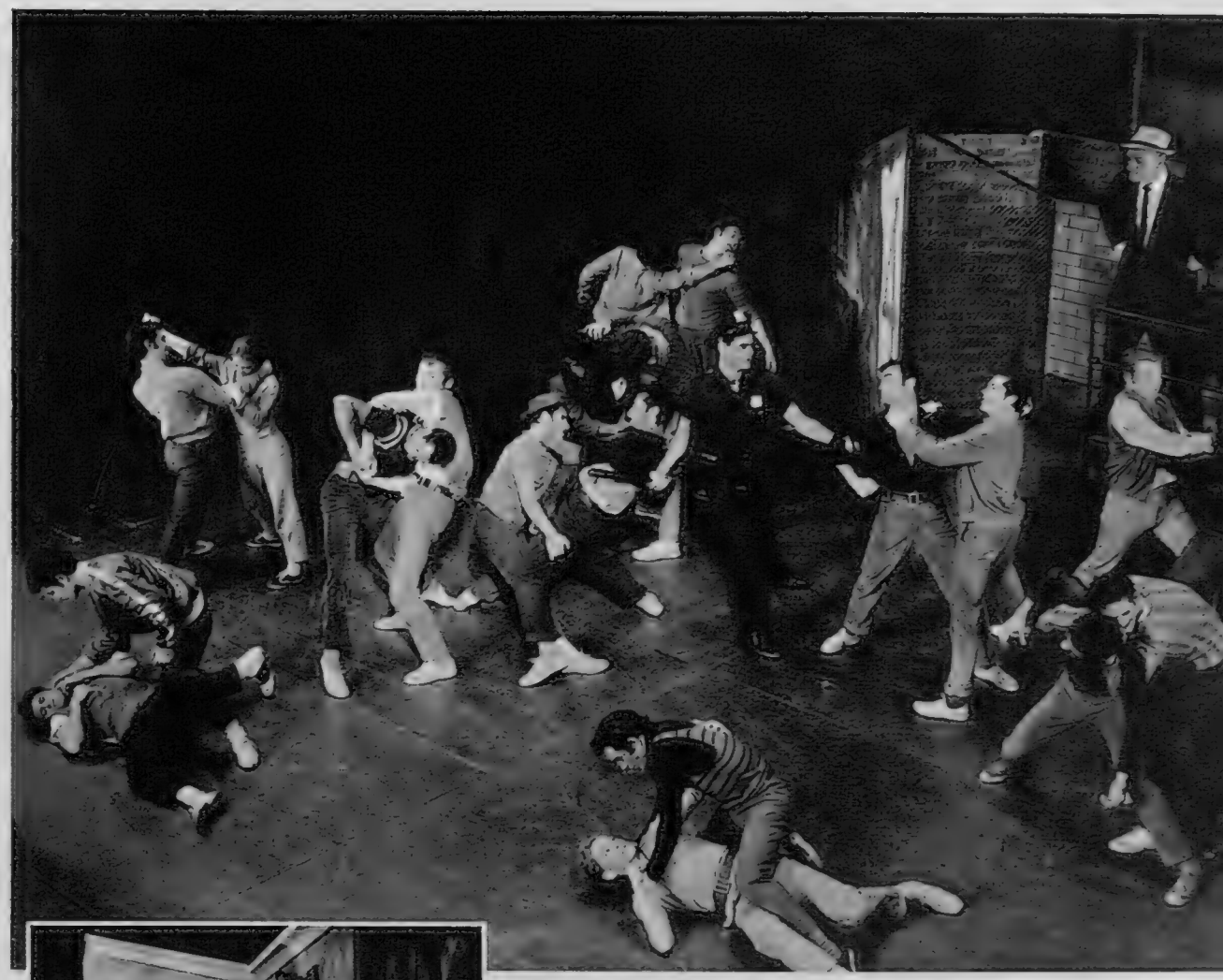
Vernon Fane

THE MOUNTAIN WORLD, 1958-59 (Allen and Unwin. 25s.) is the latest edition of the new symposium on mountaineering, and what a spread of entertainment it offers! Michael Westmacott's contribution on Huaguruncho, that 18,500-ft. giant of the Peruvian ranges, is a delight, added to which are some magnificent photographs of this imposing and little-known peak. William Rieben writes about a new route up the south side of Mount Rainier, and here again the photography is first-class. Wilfrid Noyce takes us on a journey to Machapuchare (the fish's tail), a mountain with a very brief history in mountaineering annals; for it is only in the last eight years that climbers have given any thought to the conquest of this peak. Mr. Noyce, like most climbers, is a good writer and one who draws obvious strength from his contact with the high places of the earth.

To buy five square miles of unsurveyed bush with the object of creating there a new university where the black and white races could work together as equals was the task facing Dr. Kenneth Mellanby and his associates when they started work at Ibadan, Nigeria. Now Dr. Mellanby tells the story of this remarkable adventure in THE BIRTH OF NIGERIA'S UNIVERSITY (Methuen. 25s.). It is an account of a successful struggle against many difficulties, including a spate of Nigerian criticism, but so long as the university remains a place of learning and research, declares the author, it can stand up to almost any attack; in fact, it may emerge the better for it with Press and public gaining a wider knowledge of the university's mission.

Claude Blair's EUROPEAN ARMOUR (Batsford. 25s.) is a most authoritative work which fills a conspicuous gap, for it is fifty years since a general account of European armour was published in England. Mr. Blair was formerly connected with the Tower of London armouries, and is now in the Department of Metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Some really excellent line-drawings help to explain the more technical aspects of the text.

R. C. E.



GANG WARFARE IN NEW YORK : As a policeman (centre) attempts to break up the fight, members of the two rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, struggle with each other. This scene comes from the first act of *West Side Story*, the American musical version in a modern setting of *Romeo and Juliet*, which opened at Her Majesty's Theatre in London last week. *Left*—Maria (Marlys Watters) is told by her lover Tony (Don McKay) that he has killed her brother in a gang fight.

The authors of *West Side Story* have translated the plot of *Romeo and Juliet* in terms of New York juvenile delinquents. The feud of the Montagues and the Capulets becomes the rivalry between two gangs—the native-born Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks. In a setting of fights, dance halls and tenement houses the lovers, played by Don McKay and Marlys Watters, re-enact the tragic course of their lives. One is a former Jet and the other the sister of a Shark. The book by Arthur Laurents is sociologically exact and is matched by the music of Leonard Bernstein, tense and modern rather than sentimental and lush. Perhaps the chief merit of the musical is the athletic dancing and realistic action of the choreography by Jerome Robbins.

"WEST SIDE STORY"

AFTER THE FIGHT : Watched by the girl called Anybody's (Sylvia Tysick), Tony looks at the knife with which he has just killed the brother of the girl he loves. The cast of the musical is entirely American.

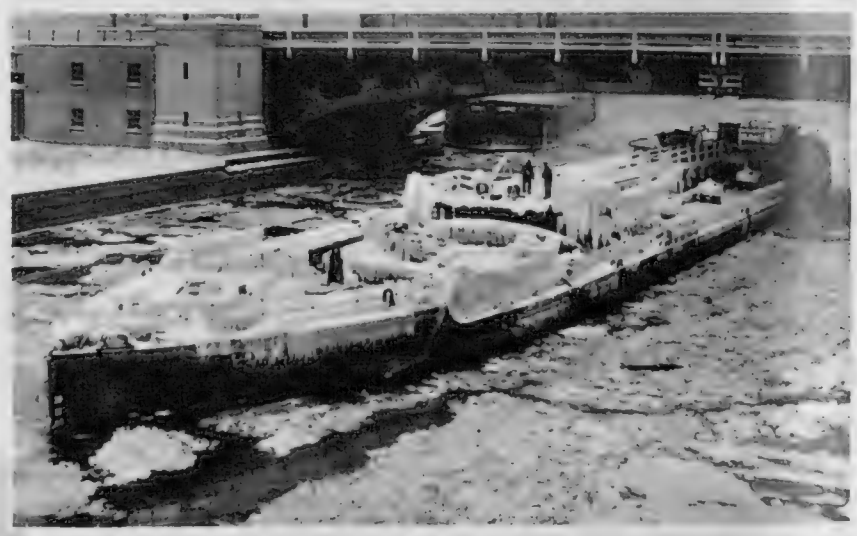
BALCONY SCENE : From the landing of the fire escape outside her bedroom Maria smiles down at Tony as they talk through the night.

ICE AND SNOW AGAIN

Conditions in Canada and America in the Coldest Season of the Year

THE NIAGARA FALLS WEAR A WINTER COAT OF ICE: Protected from the cold by a hooded coat, a visitor walks along one of the approach roads on the Canadian side of the world-famous falls on the lower portion of the Niagara River in North America. The layer of ice on the branches of the trees is 4 ins. thick. The falls and all its approaches are now covered in the annual coat of thick ice which is formed by the freezing spray thrown up by the cataract. This, however, does not deter sightseers who, throughout the winter months, are present in substantial numbers to see the ghostlike but still spectacular scene. *On right*—**THROUGH FROZEN WATERS :** Ice covers the deck of the tanker *Chicago Socony* as she makes her way up the Chicago River carrying a cargo of a million gallons of gasoline. Many parts of the United States are now suffering from unusually rigorous winter conditions.

"GHOST SHIP": Two members of the crew of the tanker *Traverse City* chip away the ice which froze to the pipes on the deck during the vessel's voyage from East Chicago to Milwaukee, which was continually hindered by long stretches of frozen water.



TWO ASPECTS OF THE COLD SPELL: *Left*—**Skaters crowd on to the Wollman Memorial rink in Central Park, New York.** *Right*—**A barge, being pushed by a tug through the frozen waters in the Barge Canal, north of Syracuse, crushes the ice into the appearance of crazy-paving. The Arctic conditions which struck in the U.S. last week caused much chaos. In many places, offices and factories were working with reduced staff and over a wide area vehicles stood abandoned on roads deep in snow or impassable through ice.**

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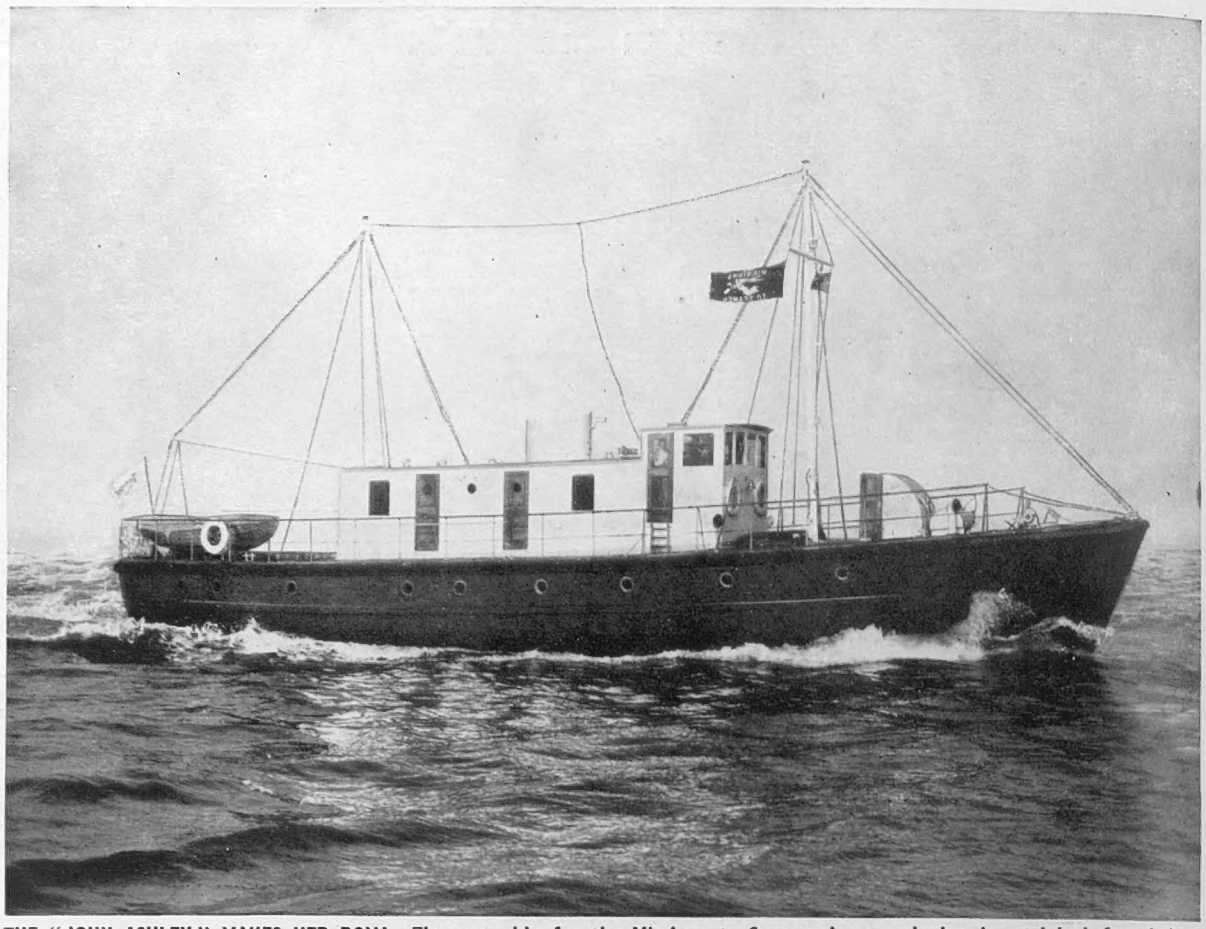
THE CHURCH GOES TO SEA

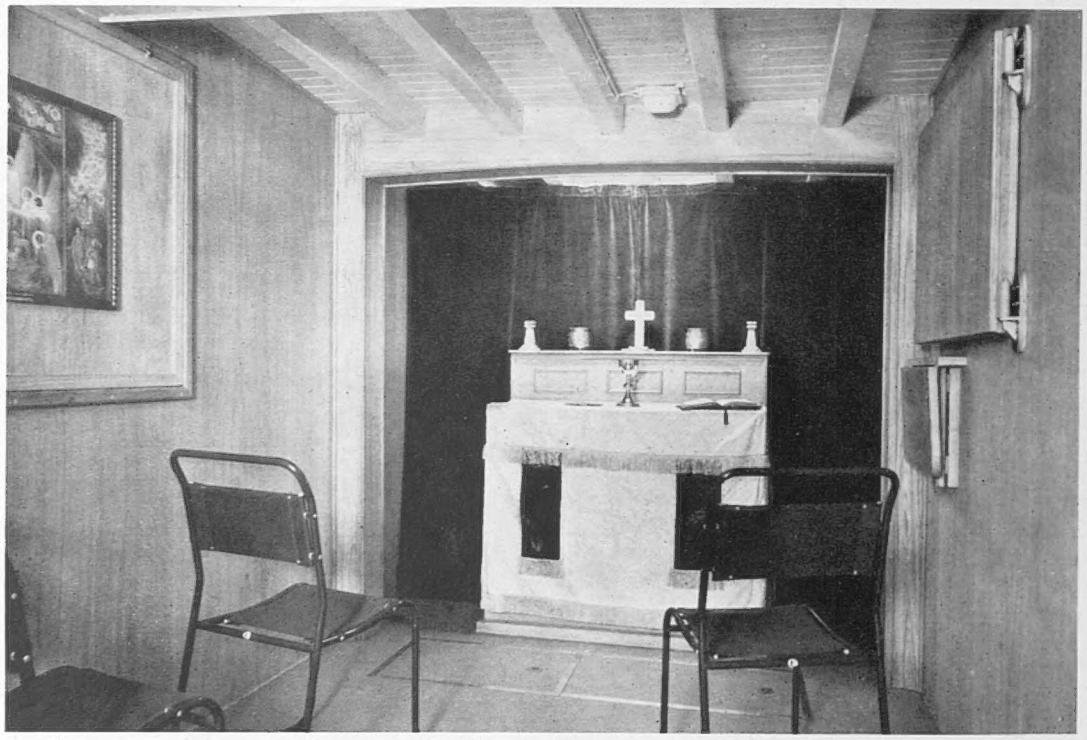
The "John Ashley" is a New Ship for the Missions to Seamen

The Missions to Seamen, which incorporates St. Andrews Waterside Church Mission for Sailors and the Thames Church Mission, has been ministering to seamen of all nationalities throughout the world since 1856. One of their many tasks is to cater for the seaman during his stay in port and, as well as hostels on shore, they have a number of launches which act as floating churches and recreation clubs. In the Thames and Medway the launch which the Society has been using for the past seven years has now been replaced by a new vessel which has been built by John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd., at their boatyard at Hampton-on-Thames. Like her predecessor she has been named after the Rev. Dr. John Ashley, whose pioneering efforts led to the co-ordination of localised efforts and to the founding of the Mission 102 years ago. The old *John Ashley*, a converted Admiralty fishing vessel, which has been ministering to the men of colliers and coasters, has logged some 6,500 miles each year and welcomed over 17,000 men annually.

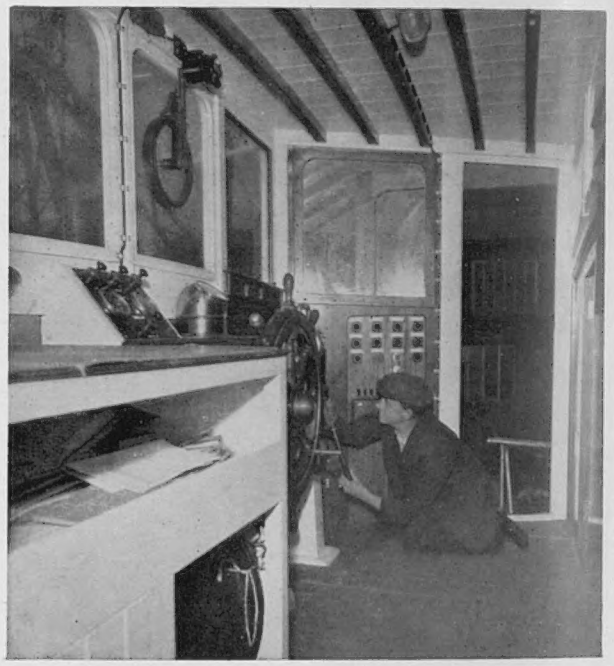
The new *John Ashley* is 75 ft. long; has a beam of 18 ft. and a speed of 10½ knots. Immediately aft of the bridge on the port side is the padre's cabin and on the starboard side is another single-berth cabin for the skipper. Below deck there is the large recreation room from which a door leads into the small chapel. Aft of the engine-room are two single-berth cabins for the ship's engineer and a deck-hand. *John Ashley* has cost £31,000, of which sum £22,500 has already been subscribed by many companies and other people, including a donation of £9,000 from the Calouste-Gulbenkian Foundation. The remaining £8,500 has still to be found.



THE "JOHN ASHLEY" MAKES HER BOW: The new ship for the Missions to Seamen is seen during her trials before being handed over to the Society. She was dedicated last week by the Bishop of London in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Mission, for service as a floating church and club. The new ship (which serves under the "Flying Angel" flag) replaces a small Admiralty fishing vessel which has been on loan for seven years.



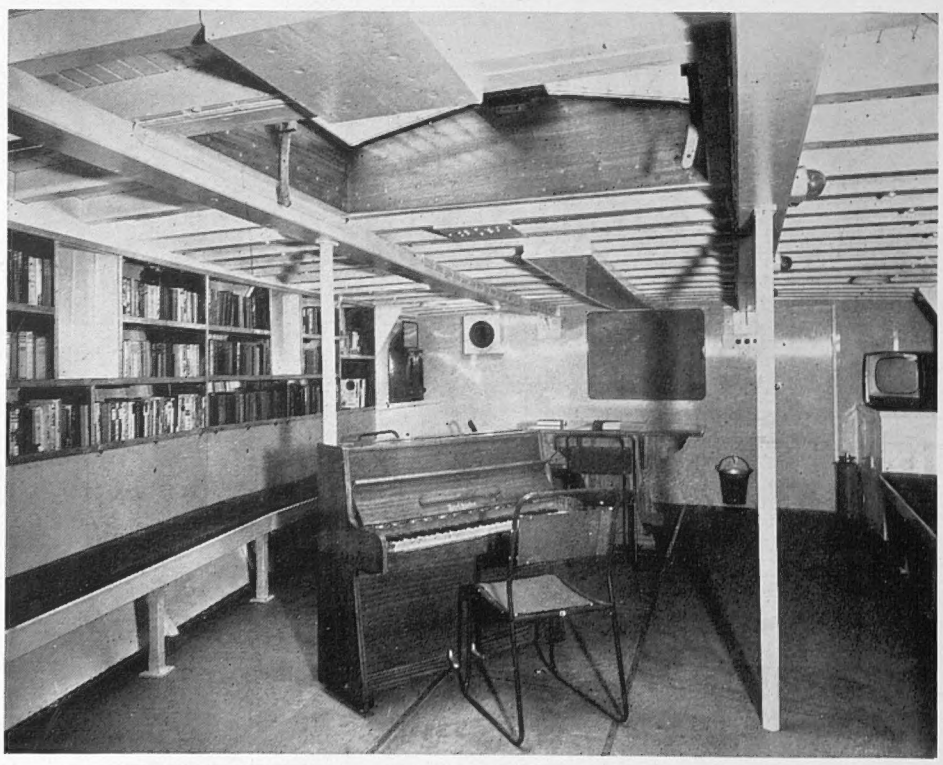
THE CHAPEL: It is only a small room but has an altar for the celebration of Holy Communion. On the altar are the chalice, paten and service book. When a big service is held the recreation room is converted for use as a chapel. The Queen is patron of the Missions to Seamen and the vice-patrons are the Archbishops.



ON THE BRIDGE: A workman is completing the installation of the wheel. Both the captain's cabin and the padre's cabin lead off from the bridge. There is also a guest's cabin.

On right—

FOR RECREATION PURPOSES: A general view of the recreation room showing in the foreground the piano and in the right background the television-set. In the centre background is the projection screen for cinema shows. Along the two side walls are shelves for the ship's library. There is accommodation in the ship for sixty seamen.



THE PADRE'S CABIN: The main fittings in this cabin are the single berth, wardrobe, desk and a chair. There are also a radio and gramphone for relaying music throughout the vessel.

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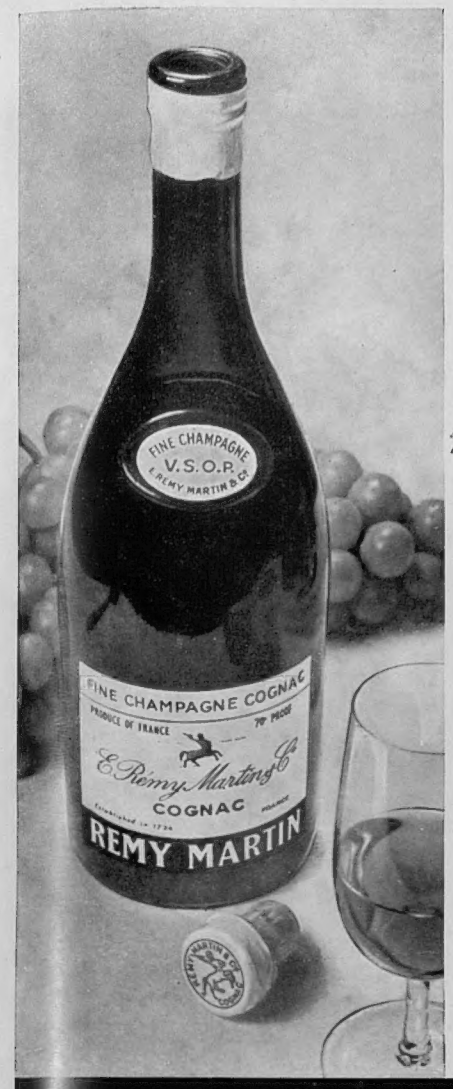

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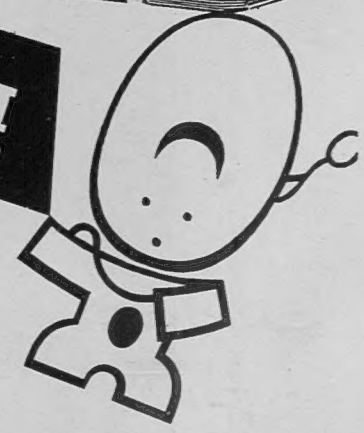

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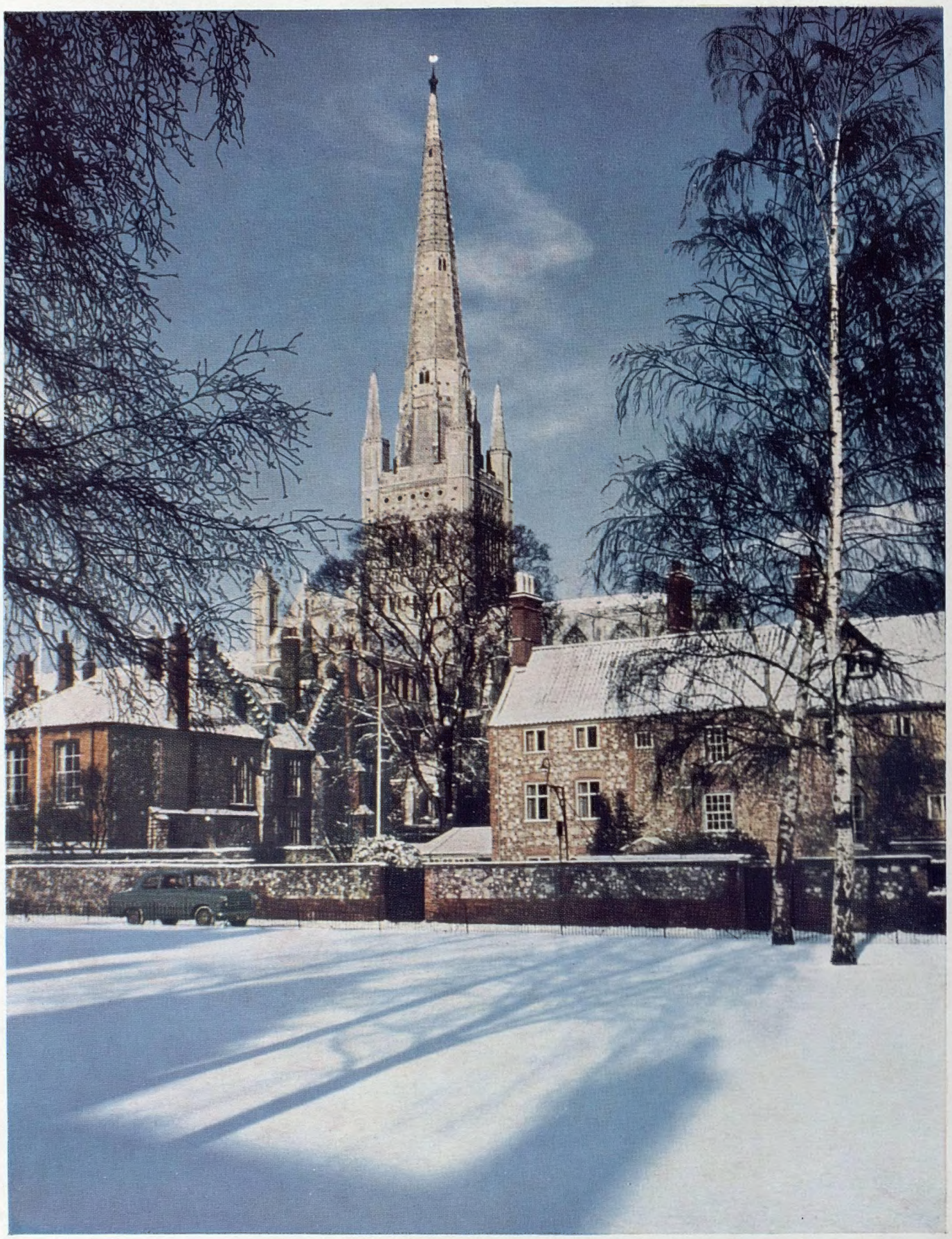

A Kodachrome photograph

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It was in the 15th century that the great spire of Norwich Cathedral, second highest in Britain, replaced a former wooden steeple. At that time the buildings on the right of this picture were used by the monks as their 'garner' or granary, brewery and bakery. The Norwich Union Insurance Societies were established over 150 years ago by men with broad vision and a keen sense of the community's needs. No wonder they decided to adopt the familiar outline of Norwich Cathedral as their symbol. Today it is recognised as the hallmark of all that is best in insurance, the beneficent influence of the Societies being enjoyed by policyholders in the farthest corners of the earth.

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